August 27th—September 2nd, 1987, No. 35 75¢

THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

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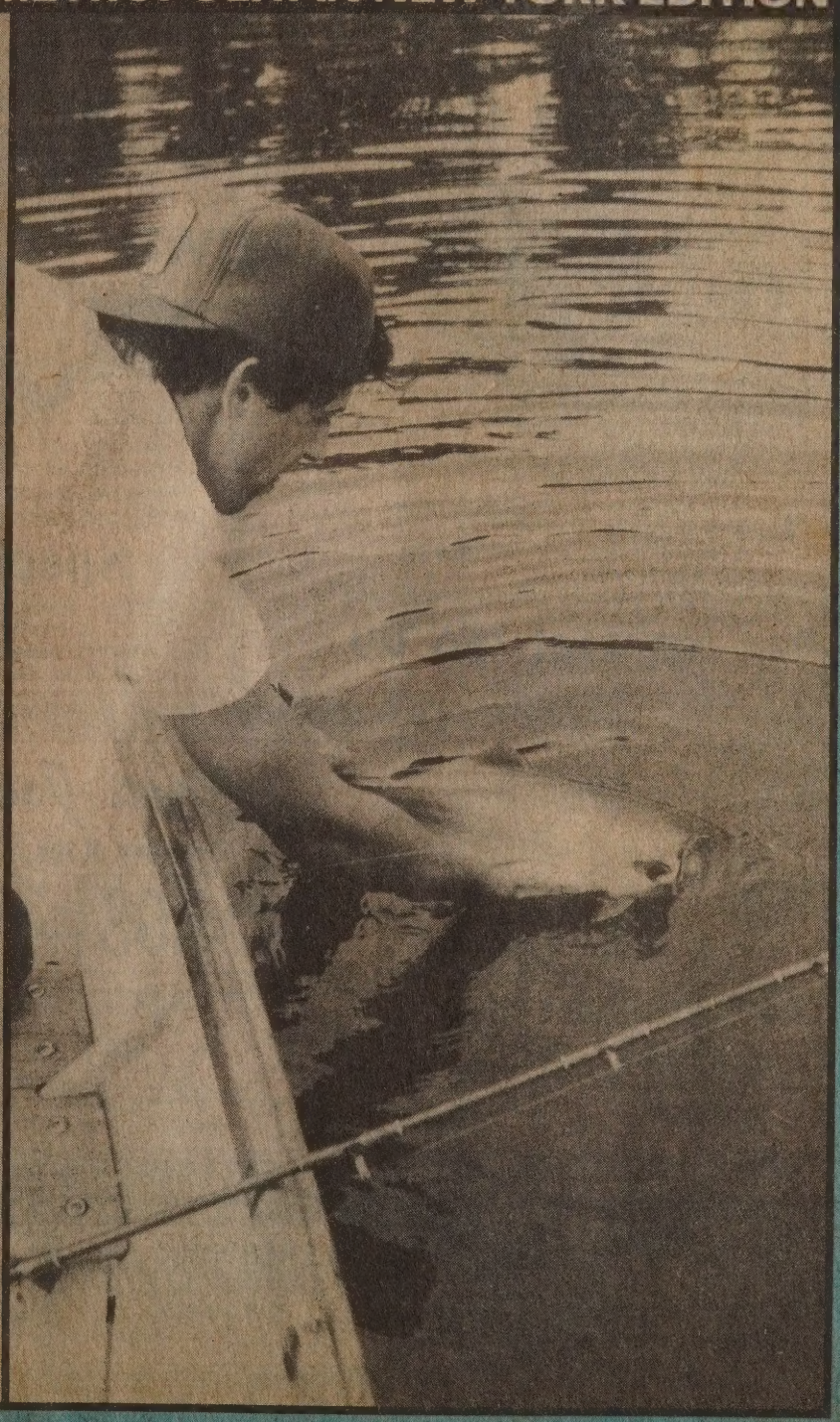

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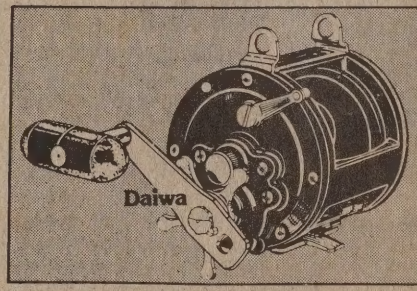

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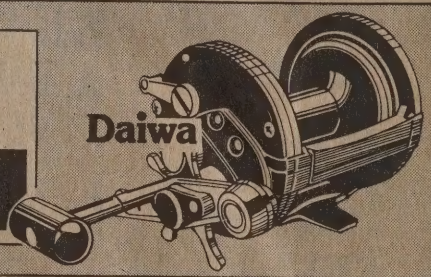

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THE Fisherman

LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION

Volume 22, Number 35 August 27th, 1987

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Catch and release fishing is becoming a way of life for many anglers, but not always for the right reasons. The latest motivation comes from a recent report concerning PCB levels in bluefish. See William Muller's article on page 18 for more details. Photo by Fred Laager.

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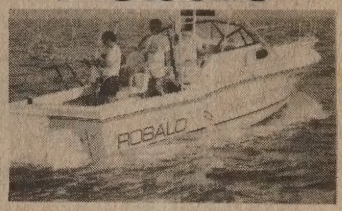

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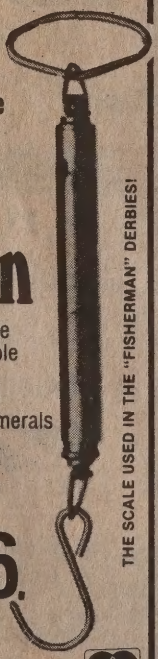

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BOATING COURSE OFFERED BY U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

Due to an overwhelming response, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 5-7 is proud to offer another boating course, which is open to the general public. The course being taught this fall is called Sailing and Seamanship. These lessons are presented as lectures and discussions which are supplemented with movies, slides, models and demonstrations with actual equipment. Students will have direct "hands-on" instruction and practice in the areas of marlinspike seamanship (nautical knots) and basic coastal piloting (navigation).

These classes, which are taught by highly experienced instructors are given on Thursday evenings from 7PM until 9PM beginning Thursday, September 10th. The entire course will consist of 12 lessons. Registration begins on September 10th, the first evening of class at 6:30PM.

The classes are conveniently located at the Coast Guard building Marine Inspection Office which is south of Battery Park near the Ferry docks. There is **free locked parking** on the premises, if you are traveling by car. Public transportation is also very convenient. By subway, take the #1 IRT to South Ferry Station, or the RR train to Whitehall Street Station. The #4 and #5 IRT also go to the Bowling Green Station.

All instruction is taught free of charge. There is a nominal fee for course materials which include a text book, workbook, navigation training chart and marlinspike practice line. For more information, call (212) 213-4664. You may also call the Foundation for Boating Safety—US Hotline at 1-800-336-2628.

BASIC BOATING COURSE IN BROOKLYN

Whether you own a boat, are thinking of buying a boat, or just want to learn more about boating, water safety, or seamanship, Brooklyn Power Squadron's basic boating course is for you.

This fall the Brooklyn Power Squadron, which was founded in 1918, will be offering a basic boating course to the public. The course is free, however, a nominal fee is charged for course materials.

The instructors will consist of a team of experienced and dedicated individuals who will be using the most advanced course materials developed by the world's largest sail and power boat teaching organization, United States Power Squadrons.

The course will cover the safe handling of sail and power boats, anchoring, basic knots, chart work, the use of the marine compass, and coastal navigation.

For those interested in attending class in the Sheepshead Bay area, registration and the first class of the 12-week course will commence on Tuesday, September 15, at the Sheepshead Bay Yacht Club, 3076 Emmons Ave., Brooklyn, from 7 to 9PM.

For those who find downtown Brooklyn more convenient, registration and the first class of the 12 week course will be offered at St. Francis C College, 180 Remsen St., just a half block from Brooklyn Borough Hall, on Thursday, September 17th, from 7:30 to 9PM.

Safe boating is no accident. You are invited to attend to gain knowledge and build the confidence needed to spend a more enjoyable time on the water.

Satisfactory completion earns the student a certificate that may reduce a boat owner's insurance.

Further information about the course is available from Lt. Ursel Crutchfield at (212) 538-0382.

OYSTER BAY BLUEFISH TOURNAMENT

Get ready to reel in the prizes at the Town of Oyster Bay's Second Annual Bluefish Tournament on Sunday, September 13th.

Are you one of our many residents who enjoys rising early, baiting a hook and spending hours fishing in our plentiful waters?

If you are, then the Town is offering you a chance to enjoy that recreational pursuit while competing for some very lucrative prizes.

Last year our Parks Department initiated a new event—a bluefish tournament—and the response was overwhelming. Hundreds of residents set out on a Sunday morning in September from Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park Marina with a goal of catching the largest bluefish and winning first prize. Along with the glory came a trophy and a $1,000 gift certificate from Oyster Bay Marine Supply, the event's co-sponsor.

What could we do to make this year's tournament even better? One thing we did was increase first prize to a $2,000 gift certificate from Oyster Bay Marine Supply and a nautical clock plaque. In fact, the first three winners will receive gift certificates and clock plaques. The second place certificate is for $1,000 and third receives a $500 certificate. Prizes of $100 gift certificates will be given to the fourth through tenth place winners.

Every entrant will receive a tournament tee shirt and refreshments at a post-tournament "tailgate" party co-sponsored by Harbor Distributors, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Reinhard's Restaurant and a host of cor-

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porate contributors. All participants will be eligible for the numerous raffle prizes to be given away free.

To enter, all contestants must be pre-registered and have pre-paid the $5 per fisherman fee—registration closes on August 28 or when 250 boats have been signed up. All boats will be leaving from Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park Marina between 5AM and Noon and must check back in no later than 5PM. This is a rain or shine event which will only be cancelled if there are small craft warnings posted for the day. If that occurs, it will be rescheduled for Sunday, September 27th at the same location.

Registration forms are available at all Town of Oyster Bay parks and beaches and at the Town Clerk's offices in Oyster Bay and Town Hall South. Forms can also be found at Oyster Bay Marine Supply, 47 West Main Street, Oyster Bay. For additional information, call the Parks Department at 795-1000.

Judging by last year's turnout there are many people who enjoy competitive fishing. If you're one, don't delay. That $2,000 gift certificate could be yours.

HODEL COMMENDS TWO COMPANIES FOR EDUCATION EFFORTS

Secretary of the Interior, Donald P. Hodel, recently praised two fishing tackle companies for helping teach young people about aquatic resources.

Berkley, Inc. of Iowa and Oklahome-based Zebco are contributing fishing tackle worth $1.9 million to the Sport Fishing Institute Fund in Washington, D.C. This non-profit organization will, in turn, distribute the equipment to states sponsoring aquatic education programs for use in schools and for other education activities.

"I have urged Americans to take pride in our nation's magnificent natural resources. Education is a key to this," Hodel said. "The donations from Berkley and Zebco embody the Take Pride message. Through their generosity, many of our young citizens will become acquainted with aquatic environments and will learn how to care for these resources wisely."

Funds for state aquatic education programs are authorized by Wallop-Breaux amendments to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program, commonly known as the "Dingell/Johnson" program. Derived from federal excise tax receipts on fishing equipment, the states received approximately $140 million in 1987 for sport fish-related projects. Up to 10 percent of these funds can be used for aquatic education programs. The Berkley and Zebco tackle donations are intended to encourage states to develop aquatic education curricula for their school systems.

Secretary Hodel also commended the Future Fishermen Foundation, established by Berkley, for its efforts

to promote aquatic resource education and for its campaign urging young people to "get hooked on fishing, not drugs."

"Fishing and other outdoor recreation can offer wholesome outlets for youthful energies," Hodel said. "I applaud the Future Fishermen Foundation for adopting this anti-drug theme in its outreach to young people."

RED MAN NORTHEASTERN DIVISION QUALIFIER HELD ON THOUSAND ISLANDS

Robert Moyer, of Lehighton, Pennsylvania, led a field of 313 anglers in Sunday's Red Man Northeastern Division qualifier held on Thousand Islands. Moyer managed a limit of five bass weighing 18 lbs. 6 oz. to take first place and $3,058. A cash purse of $13,675 was divided among top finishers in the event.

Moyer also managed the biggest bass of the tournament which entitled him to an additional $1,000 and a one week vacation. His big bass weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. Moyer fished a 4 inch black/grape worm in the current between Alexandria Bya and Clayton. Second place went to Larry Allard, of W. Brookfield, Massachusetts. Allard's catch consisted of five bass weighing 18 pounds. Second place paid $1,941.

Third place went to Paul Pendergrass, of Hudson, Massachusetts. Pendergrass fished Culprit worms around docks in the Clayton area. He managed five bass weighing 15 lbs. 11 oz. and earned $1,170. Bill Loveland, of Milltown, New Jersey, managed five bass weighing 14 lbs. 15 oz. and arned $745 for fourth place. Loveland fished 6 inch Culprit worms around docks in the Clayton area. Fifth place and $666 went to Douglas Nieman, of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Nieman caught five bass weighing 14 lbs. 8 oz., fishing a white spinnerbait in grass and cattails in the Kingston area.

Rounding out the top 10 positions were: 6) Rick Davisson, Budd Lake, New Jersey, five fish, 14 lbs. 5 oz., $586; 7) George Merling, Frostburg, Maryland, five fish, 14 lbs., $507; 8) Greg Walsh, Scranton, Pennsylvania, five fish, 13 lbs. 14 oz., $427; 9) William McDonaugh, Thorndale, Pennsylvania, five fish, 13 lbs. 12 oz., $347; and 10) Rich Schneidereit, Medford Lakes, New Jersey, five fish, 13 lbs. 9 oz., $202.50.

At the completion of the six Red Man qualifying events, the top 24 fishermen, determined on a basis of pounds and points, will move on to regional classic competition. There they will compete against 96 other fishermen from four other divisions.

Operation Bass sponsors for 1987 are: Red Man chewing tobacco, Ranger Boats, Chevrolet trucks, DuPont Stren line, Evinrude Outboards, GNB Batteries, Fenwick tackle boxes, Minn Kota trolling motors, Ryobi reels, Pennzoil outboard lubricant, Techsonic (Humminbird electronics), Browning rods and Igloo coolers.

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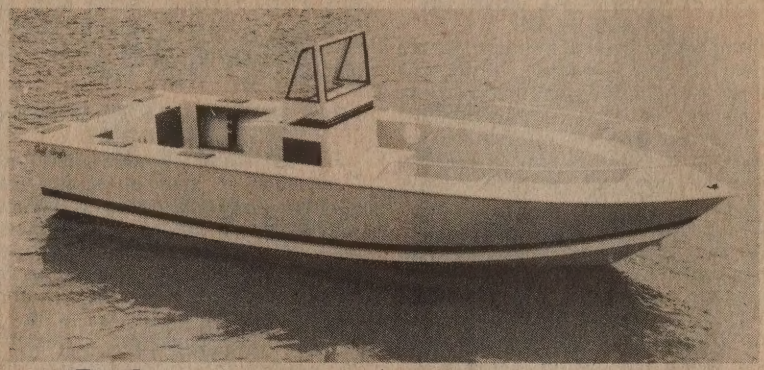

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Each Penn Special Senator Deluxe features a cushioned foam fore grip, hardware butt with blank through butt construction and chrome plated, machined brass reel seat and gimbal.

All Special Senator Deluxe rods measure 6' 6" and are available in 3/0, 4/0, 6/0 and 9/0 models, matched in size and performance to Penn's legendary Senator reels.

Each Senator rod combines one piece construction with a new type of lightweight, solid white fiberglass blank that results in a rod that is virtually unbreakable. Senator series rods are engineered for medium to large saltwater game fish such as bluefish, king mackerel, shark, wahoo, school tuna and grouper.

For more information about the Special Senator Deluxe series, or other fine products from Penn, contact: Penn Fishing Tackle Mfg. Co., 3028 W. Hunting Park Ave., Dept. P, Philadelphia, PA 19132; or call (215) 229-9415.

RAY JEFFERSON'S TRI-SCREEN LORAN FOR '87

Ray Jefferson's Model L-990 Loran C for 1987, in addition to its multi-window display, features 99 waypoints and a memory bank nearly twice as large as competitive models.

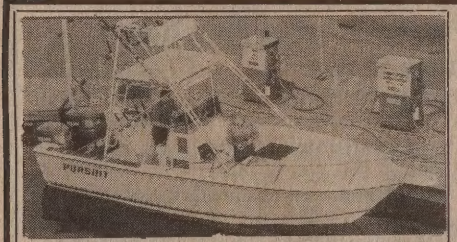
The three window features on Ray Jefferson's Model L-990 Loran C show present position in one while navigational aids are displayed in the other two screens. Additional information is easy to call up with a touch on the computer type membrane keypad. Affordable and easy to use, the data output from the L-990 can be interfaced with other units such as auto pilots, depth finders and plotters.

Ray Jefferson's continuing research and advanced engineering produces a compact Loran C packed with all the outstanding features, easy to operate and small enough to fit any size boat (only 7¼"H x 6¼"W x 4½" D). The unique three screen readout allows instantaneous pinpointing of location.

All L-990 Loran functions are automatic—no need to study Loran charts! The L-990's built-in microprocessor circuitry measures the difference in signal arrival times (Time Difference or TDs) between master and secondary Loran C stations. The L-990 instantly displays present position in LOP's or Lat/Lon coordinates.

The Model L-990 has three backlit display screens to constantly display Present Position and navigation information all at the same time, all in large easy to read digit. The main screen constantly displays Bearing to Waypoint (BRG), Time to Go (TTG), or Course Heading (CRS). The bottom right hand screen displays Distance to Destination (DST), Cross Track (XTK) or Speed in Nautical Miles or Knots (SPD). The (Way To Go) arrow indicates correction heading, left or right, in one hundredths of a mile or knot.

Ray Jefferson's Loran remembers 99 waypoints. The Model L-990 features a 99 Waypoint (WPT) memory bank to store 99 favorite fishing spots, or navigational information. You can instantly recall their positions and return to the exact location you have selected. The WPT memory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• Plenty more, fiberglassed stringer system
• Built to tough workboat specifications

North Coast

has a data retention capability of five years even if the unit's power has been turned off.

Automatic 99 waypoint sequencing allows pre-setting a series of waypoint positions in the memory. At arrival of each waypoint, an audible alarm will sound.

Ray Jefferson's Model L-990 also features Anchor Watch and Cross Track Error (XTK) alarms for notification of going adrift while at anchor or off course while en route.

The Ray Jefferson Loran C L-990 course computer automatically sets a straight course line to the selected destination and constantly displays any course deviation (XTK) of the vessel right or left to a hundredth of a nautical mile. For maximum protection against local interference, the Ray Jefferson Loran C has 4 automatic notch filters, plus two factory pre-set filters, more than most competitive units.

Land mass path corrections (ASF) are entered in both the TD mode and the Lat/Lon mode. Course error adjustments can be entered in Lat/Lon coordinates along with magnetic compass deviation corrections for greater accuracy. Signal to Noise Reject (SNR) and Envelope to Cycle Discrepancy (ECD) readouts provide a self-dianostic check of installation and performance.

The unit comes complete with universal mounting bracket and high performance Antenna Coupler Unit. The Coupler can be mounted with standard marine antenna hardware. The suggested retail price is $1199.95.

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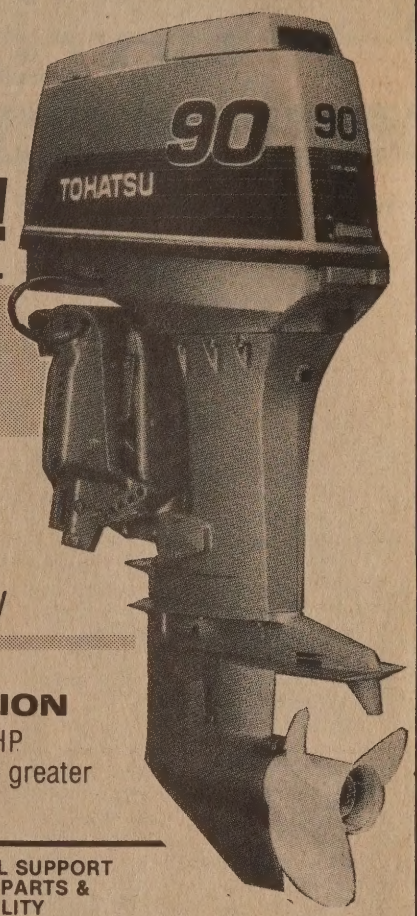

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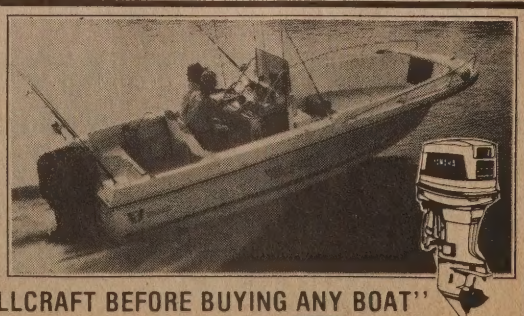

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OUTBOARDS by YAMAHA

Product Review

FENWICK HOTSTIKS

by John Raguso

Have you ever heard the old axiom, "If you hold onto something long enough, it will eventually come back into style?" Well, guess what? It seems that the majority of fishing rod manufacturers have run full circle with the gamut of exotic fibers such as S-glass, graphite, boron, etc., and are now reintroducing the next miracle fiber: plain old fiberglass. Of course, they've repositioned this material under a new moniker called "E- glass," but this is essentially the same stuff most fiberglass blanks have been created from since the genesis of using it to build fishing rods. What has changed significantly though, is the resin technology and the tapers that the fiberglass blanks are built on, so there are a few new twists that have caused E-glass to experience a rebirth of sorts. For stand-up tuna fishing, where sheer wall thickness and brute strength are required to tame these rambunctious denizens of Neptune's deep, E-glass has proven to be the most reliable material to date, and manfacturers, including Fenwick are introducing new rods and blanks based on this time tested element.

For 1987, Fenwick has introduced four new Hotstik rods designed for stand-up blue water fishing, based on three new blank designs. According to a synposis of Fenwick's press release for this new launch, they describe their rods as follows: "These rugged Hotstik rods are included in a new line of extremely rugged Fenwick saltwater rods introduced for 1987. What makes Hotstiks unique is that they are made of E-glass, a material known for its impact-resistance and overall durability. The thick walls and slower actions of these rods result in the load being distributed throughout the entire length of the rod. The power transition is exceptionally smooth, and the graduated taper construction will tame the toughest tuna. Designed for blue water anglers, the Tunastiks have smooth, powerful actions that will prevent anxious errors on the part of the angler."

They go on to say that these rods would be appropriate to do battle with albacore, stripers, barracuda, yellowtail and bigeye tuna. I would agree with all of these recommendations with the exception of the last species. Perhaps our West Coast brethren have a smaller sub-species of Pacific bigeye tuna that we don't see on these eastern shores, but I don't envision any angler realistically taking one of our 200 lb. Atlantic bigeyes from either the canyon or the shelf on one of these rods, unless, of course, he or she has three our four hours to dedicate to this pursuit while their fellow anglers are bored to tears in the process.

The Hotstik model HC 667 measures 6½ feet in length. Rated for 15 to 50 lb. line, it's designed for conventional reels and has an extra fast taper with a beefy butt for heavy lifting power. It is constructed iwth stainless steel guides and a graphite reel seat, with foam grips fore and aft. For you custom rod buffs out there, the equivalent blank number is LBE-787.

The model HC 704 is a 7 footer that's a tad lighter than its aforementioned sibling. It's rated for 12 to 30 lb. test line, built with a fast taper and medium lifting power. This stick comes standard with stainless conventional guides and a graphite reel seat and could be just the ticket to fence with the local population of bonito and false albacore while feeding them bits of spearing and sand eels on the chunk line over the inshore humps and reefs. Once again, for the do-it-yourselfers the corresponding blank number for this rod is LBE-844.

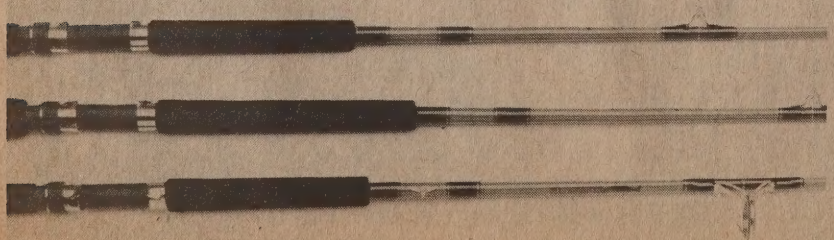
Models HC 705 and HS 705 are basically identical with the exception of the type of guides used and their placement. The HC derivative signifies that this is a conventional casting rod, while the HS descriptor indicates a spinning rig. Both sticks are rated for 14 to 40 pound line, featuring fast tapers and medium light power. As with the other rods in this series, these Hotstiks come with stainless steel guides, graphite reel seat and an attractive deep red and gold underwrap with a black overwrap. Fenwick's durable epoxy finish over the wraps ensures years of worry free protection. The equivalent blank for customer builders is LBE-845.

An an aficionado who has spent a few hours at the rod bench, I was glad to see Fenwick switch back to E-glass rods. These seem to hold up the best over the long haul and it's been our experience that a heavy dose of slammer blues and 50 to 100 lb. tunas will make the S-glass rods a little "tired" before their time. I've made quite a few rods based on the older designation of the LB-787 blank, and I prefer the newer LBE-787. The E-glass in this new blank should prove to be less susceptible to tip fatigue on large seagoing critters, as was the case with some of the S-glass predecessors. I believe that this 787 configuration is one of the best all-around rods I've ever fished with and if you were going to limit yourself to only a few rods, this would be one of the first I'd select. I've caught everything from flounder to sharks, bluefin tuna and century-sized amberjacks with this stick and it never ceases to amaze both myself and my fishing buddies as to its versatility. The sensitive No. 9 tip will pick up the gentle nibbles of sea bass or cod while wreck fishing and the substantial butt section will tame some of the toughest species you can tangle with. If you desire to concentrate more in the offshore arena, I'd advise cutting the tip down a bit to a #10 size to improve the hook setting capabilities of this blank just a bit.

All in all, these Fenwick Hotsiks are super hot if you're into the blue water scene and they'll handle a variety of situations for you. So give them a once over the next time you go down to the local tackle shop, especially now that the fall season is about to kick into gear.

* * *

Manufactured by: Fenwick/Woodstream, P.O. Box 729, Westminster, CA 92684; (714) 897-1066.



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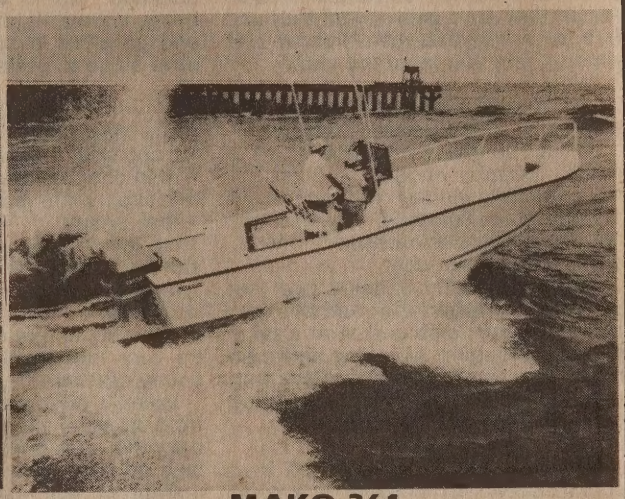

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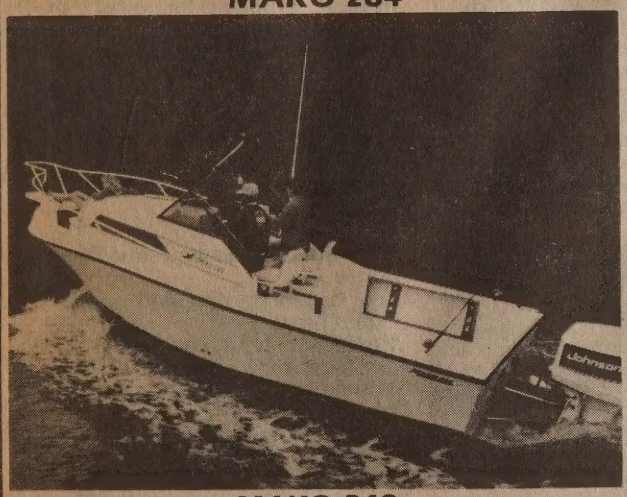

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Captain's Table

MORE BLUE CLAW RECIPES

by Jim Capossela

To my way of thinking, one of the best and most eye-catching appetizers is a mold. Here's a crab recipe that uses gelatin and fruit and in such a way that the attractive end product lets you taste the crab.

Fruited Crab Meat Mold

2 tsp granulated gelatin, soaked in 1/3 cup grapefruit juice
1 tbsp tarragon vinegar
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup grapefruit pulp
1/2 cup pineapple, crushed
1 cup white crab meat

Dissolve gelatin in juice over hot water. Add vinegar, then add this mixture to mayonnaise a little at a time. Blend thoroughly. Mix fruit and crab meat. Add to first mixture. Pack into an oiled mold. Chill well. Unmold and serve on bibb lettuce or radicchio.

Sometime ago, I was invited to a cockail party at the home of a good friend. It being August, with the giant swamp rose mallows blooming along the backwaters of the Hudson, I happened to have some fresh crab meat in the refrigerator. As I had agreed to bring a dish, I decided to make a fresh crab dip.

When my friend put the dip out on the table along with some plain, thin wafers, one of the sleekly dressed urban ladies present remarked, "Oh, that looks nice. Did you use a package mix?" Without saying a thing, I turned slowly to the woman and gave her a baleful stare, and I have since forgotten her name.

Fresh Crab Dip

1 cup mayonnaise
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tbsp chopped parsley
1½ cups white crab meat
1 tbsp sherry
1 tsp lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste
1 tsp chopped fresh chives

Combine all ingredients. Chill thoroughly before serving. Serve only on very thin toast or very thin, unsalted crackers.

When I order softshell crab away from home, I cross my fingers and pray the chef is not a part time college student from Kansas. In a fine restaurant you can be pretty sure they'll know what they're doing. But in a lunch shop or any less sophisticated eatery, proceed with caution!

I'm still trying to forget some of the "softshell sandwiches" I've bitten into. For lack of a more polite description, I've had innards come oozing out both sides of my hamburger roll, ruining not only my lunch but pretty much my day. You should remove the soft innards from softshells just as you do with hardshells!

Like hardshell crab, softshells are usually sold live and that's the way you should buy them. Actually, you should *see* them live, but then the proprietor will almost always make them pan ready for you. If you're lucky enough to gather a few yourself, here's the correct procedure.

Using a heavy chef knife, make one chop or one quick cut across the front of the crab to remove the eyes, mouth parts and brain. This kills the crab in the most humane way, i.e., instantly. At this point, convention has it that you carefully lift up each tip (point) of the crab and remove the unpalatable gills or "dead man." According to this school of thought, you can at the same time remove or wash out most of the rest of the innards. In truth, it appears as if there is yet another school of thought here, one that says it's okay to leave in the innards. I want no part of it, though, so if I think there are still remnants of the hepatopancreas, stomach, etc., I'll carefully peel back the apron of the crab and pick away, then wash off any remaining innards. Then I'll cut off the abdomen (apron) and just as carefully wrap the shell minus the apron back around the crab.

The smaller softshells called "hotels" are the preferred ones as they will have more tender shells. Regardless of the size, though, the price tag of $1.50 to $3.50 each will tell you that you have a gourmet item in hand. Probably 90 percent of the time, this gourmet treat is sauteed or deep fried, but it can also be broiled if you prefer less grease.

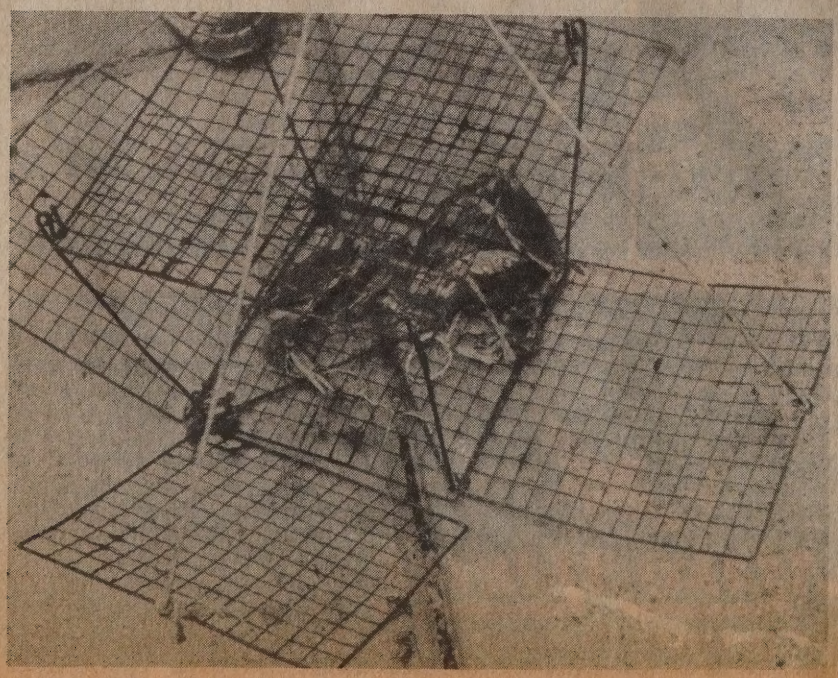
Then, too, softshell lends itself to more complex recipes, some of these appearing on menus of America's very best restaurants. Here, though, is a simple recipe for a straightforward saute.

Softshell Saute Francaise

butter
flour seasoned with salt, pepper and paprika
1 tbsp dry Vermouth plus 1 tbsp white wine
4 softshell crabs
1 or 2 eggs, beaten
juice of 1/2 lemon
fresh dill

Dredge crabs in seasoned flour. Dip in egg, then saute in butter until lightly browned, about 5 minutes per side. Add Vermouth, lemon juice, wine and a little chopped dill to the pan. Stir to make a little sauce (add a bit of cornstarch to thicken if you like). Add a few drops of water if sauce is too thick or too little. Bring to a simmer and serve. Serves two.

Editor's Note: Jim Capossela is author of *How to Catch Crabs by the Bushel*, which includes some four dozen crab recipes (some of them reprinted here). To order the book, send $3.95 (include $1.50 for postage and handling) to: The Fisherman Library, P.O. Box 1994, Bridge St., Sag Harbor, NY 11963.



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16' OPEN BOW 120hp MERC I/O
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BAYLINER
JAN Z. HOLYOKE MA. 7/20/87
23' SANTIAGO 198hp. MERC I/O
"IT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE, WITH FUEL, BUTTERFISH, ICE AND 3 OR 4 PEOPLE ON BOARD I HAD TO MOVE EVERYONE TO THE BOW, THE BOAT REALLY HAD TO STRAIN TO GET ON PLANE. NOW GETTING ON PLANE IS NO PROBLEM. THE MOTOR IS NOT WORKING AS HARD, THE BOW STAYS DOWN AND THE BOAT IS MUCH MORE STABLE AT LOW SPEED. THE DOEL-FIN WORKED BETTER THAN I EVER EXPECTED. IT IS MORE THAN WORTH THE MONEY!"

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JACQUES W. STAMFORD CT. 7/20/87
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"THE DOEL-FIN WORKED LIKE A CHAMP. I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. IT DID EVERYTHING YOU PROMISED AND ON TOP OF IT THE BOAT RAN FASTER. IT'S WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT."

CELEBRITY
KEVIN L. SMITHTOWN NY. 7/20/87
19 1/2' CUDDY 205hp OMC
"IT'S GREAT! OUT OF THE CHANNEL THE BOW WAS DOWN AND THE BOAT TRACKED MUCH STRAIGHTER. IT FELT SOLID IN CHOP AND PLANES OFF FASTER, PLUS THE BOAT DOESN'T REQUIRE AS MUCH ADJUSTMENT OF THE POWER TRIM. I'D CERTAINLY RECOMMEND THE DOEL-FIN."

CHRIS CRAFT
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24' SCORPION 260hp MERC I/O
"I LIKE IT. THE BOAT DOESN'T BOW STEER IN A FAST TURN, I CAN HAVE LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THE BACK AND STILL PULL A SKIER WITH NO PROBLEM. I DON'T USE THE HYDRAULIC TRIM TABS ANYMORE. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BOAT IS MUCH BETTER WITH THE DOEL-FIN, I RECOMMEND IT!"

CLASSIC
JOHN C. CORAM NY. 7/22/87
25' CABIN CRUISER 260hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN WORKS VERY NICELY. THE BOAT PLANES OFF FASTER, I PICK UP ABOUT 4 M.P.H AT 3400 RPM AND I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT I CAN STAY ON PLANE DOWN TO 1900 RPM. I CAN SEE WHERE I'M GOING WITHOUT STANDING ON MY TIP TOES AND THE BOAT DOESN'T "BUCK" THE SWELLS ANYMORE."

COLUMBIAN
JEFF B. SHELTER ISL. NY. 8/3/87
22' CUDDY CABIN 200hp EVINRUDE
"THEY DO EVERYTHING YOU CLAIMED. I'M ON PLANE AT 3000 RPM vs. 4200 BEFORE, I RUN FASTER AND SMOOTHER IN A ROUGH SWELL, I CAN SIT IN MY CHAIR AND SEE WHERE I'M GOING THE WHOLE TIME, YOU'VE GOT MY VOTE ON THEM. ALSO MY ENGINE ISN'T LABORING, I'VE PICKED UP 300 RPM ON THE TOP AND I HARDLY TOUCH THE TRIM. I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE DOEL-FIN, EVERYONE WITH A BOAT SHOULD OWN THEM."

FORMULA
DOUG H. HYANNIS MA. 7/20/87
24' CUDDY 220 YAMAHA W/GIL BRKTS
"IT WORKED GREAT, THE ENGINE PULLS 200-300 RPM HIGHER AND IT PLANES FASTER. THE BOAT IS A DEEP VEE AND THE DOEL-FIN MAKES IT MUCH MORE STABLE ON TOP OF IT ALL. I RECOMMEND IT."

JOHN C. BABYLON NY. 8/2/87
25' S/C 300hp MERC I/O
"WITH THE DOEL-FINS ON I'M RUNNING IN 3-4 FOOT SEAS AS FAST AS I USED TO IN 1-2 FOOT SEAS AND THE BOAT IS SMOOTHER THAN EVER. I'M NOT USING AS MUCH TRIM AND MY FUEL ECONOMY IS IMPROVED. THEY WORKED OUT REAL WELL."

GALAXY
TONY P. PLYMOUTH PA. 7/21/87
17' OPEN BOW 140hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN IS JUST FANTASTIC, I'M REALLY SAVING ON GAS. THE BOAT PLANES FASTER, IT DOES EVERYTHING BETTER. I ABSOLUTLY RECOMMEND IT, ITS JUST GREAT!"

IMPERIAL
PAUL M. WEBSTER MA. 8/3/87
20' W/GILL BRCKTS. 140hp EVINRUDE
"THE DOEL-FIN IS PHENOMINAL. I'M PLANNING AT 2700 vs. 4200 RPM BEFORE. I'M SAVING LOTS OF FUEL. IT KEEPS THE BOW DOWN, LETTING ME RUN FASTER THAN EVER THROUGH BIGGER SEAS THAN EVER WITH NO POUNDING. I WAS SKEPTICAL, NOW I'M A BELIEVER. DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR THEIR THE BEST INVESTMENT I EVER MADE."

LARSON
DON K. ALEXANDRIA BAY NY. 8/3/87
17' ALL AMERICAN 140hp OMC
"WITH 4 PEOPLE IN THE BACK-TO-BACK SEATS THE BOAT GETS ON PLANE FAST. NO MORE MOVING ANYONE TO THE BOW. I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE DOEL-FINS, THEIR WORTH THE MONEY."

POINTER
TOM M. MONTAUK NY. 7/21/87
18' CENTER CONSOLE 55hp JOHNSON
"THE BOAT IS MUCH MORE SEA WORTHY. IN OPEN WATER THE BOW CUTS THROUGH THE SWELLS GIVING ME A MUCH MORE LEVEL RIDE AND LESS POUNDING. THE BOAT IS LESS SENSATIVE TO WEIGHT DISTRIBUTION AND I DON'T HAVE TO ADJUST THE ENGINE TILT. I WAS SKEPTICAL, BUT THE DOEL-FIN HAS MORE THAN PROVEN ITS PERFORMANCE AND VALUE, I RECOMMEND IT VERY HIGHLY."

PROLINE
CHRIS J. HUNTINGTON NY. 7/22/87
23' CENTER CONSOLE 225 EVINRUDE
"THE BOAT PLANES OFF QUICKER AND STAYS ON PLANE DOWN TO A LOWER RPM. I'M ABSOLUTLY SATISFIED WITH THE DOEL-FIN."

SEA OX
SAL & TONY P. HOWARD BCH NY. 7/12/87
23' CUDDY DUAL 115hp YAM W/GIL BRKTS
"THE DOEL-FIN IS WORTH THE MONEY. THE BOAT STAYS ON PLANE DOWN TO 2800 RPM, IT WAS 34-3500 RPM BEFORE. THE BOW STAYED DOWN WITH PEOPLE IN THE STERN AND IT FEELS VERY SOLID IN CHOP & CROSSING A WAKE, I CAN MOVE DOWN THE CANAL AT A HIGHER RPM AND LEAVE LESS WAKE. I'M RECOMMENDING THEM TO OTHER BOAT OWNERS."

SEA RAY
LEO P. CHICOPEE MA. 7/20/87
21' MONACO 228hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN DOES A GOOD JOB. I PLANE RIGHT OFF NOW AND I CAN PULL TO 4500 RPM VS. 4000 MAX BEFORE. I'M VERY PLEASED, I RECOMMEND THE PRODUCT VERY HIGHLY."

ROBERT F. BABYLON NY. 8/2/87
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"I'M USING THE MOST PROP THATS AVAILABLE FOR MY DRIVE. WITH THE DOEL-FIN ON, THE ENGINE IS PULLING MORE RPM AND I'M GOING FASTER AT A SET RPM. THE BOAT COMES ON PLANE FASTER, THEIR VERY EFFECTIVE, I'M PLAIN OLD GETTING BETTER PERFORMANCE OUT OF THE BOAT."

SPORTSCRAFT
RICHARD H. SOUND BEACH NY. 8/2/87
32' CABIN CRUISER TWIN 155hp OMC
"THE DOEL-FINS WORK VERY NICE. I COULDN'T PUT ON TRIM TABS BECAUSE OF THE HULL DESIGN AND THE TWIN OUTDRIVES, THIS SOLVES THE PROBLEM AND THEY TOOK LESS THAN A HALF HOUR TO INSTALL. THE BOAT GETS ON PLANE MUCH FASTER, PLUS I CAN RUN DOWN TO 2800 RPM vs. 3400 BEFORE."

TAHITI
FRANK T. ELWOOD NY. 8/2/87
18' CLOSED BOW 235hp EVINRUDE
"THE BOAT COMES ON PLANE VERY SMOOTHLY, NO MORE WAITING FOR IT TO HIT THE POWERBAND. THE BOAT NOW ACCELERATES WITH A CHOP PROP AS FAST AS IT USED TO WITH A SKI PROP, IN A WHIP TURN THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CAVITATION. THE DOEL-FIN IS AMAZING, YOU CAN'T GET ANYMORE THAN THIS FOR YOUR MONEY."

THUNDERBIRD
ERIC H. WILTON CT. 8/2/87
18' CLOSED BOW 120hp MERC I/O
"THE DOEL-FIN WAS VERY EASY TO INSTALL. IT STOPPED THE PROP FROM VENTALATING AND HELPED ME TO PICK UP A FEW M.P.H. IT'S DEFINATELY WORTH THE MONEY."

TROJAN
LARRY B. BROODKLYN NY. 7/13/87
25' SEA RAIDER 188hp MERC I/O
"THE BOAT PLANES MUCH FASTER, I'M VERY PLEASED WITH THE DOEL-FIN, I FEEL THEY ARE WORTH THE MONEY, I DON'T USE TRIM TABS ANYMORE."

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SUMMER DOCKAGE • WINTER STORAGE

The Tackle Doctor

by Ken Freel

Dear Doc,

You asked for some dumb questions, so here's a few.

While fishing with friends on my boat, I find that most of them cannot figure out what 150 feet of line is while trolling. The wire is either in the prop wash or they unload the spool. Rigging their baits is fun enough but snagging the bottom every few minutes is not too much fun. Are there any mechanical or electro-mechanical line footage counters available that could be clamped to a rod or the stern? I have checked with a number of tackle shops from here to Florida, to no avail.

You have probably covered this one before, but I missed it. How do you store plastic bait tails and worms without having them melt together or to the box? Why do they melt at all?

Commercial fishing fleets sometimes use aircraft to get that bird's-eye view to spot schools of fish. I would like to monitor the aircraft's radio but don't know what frequency it is on. I only want to clean up what the commercial boats leave behind and not get in the way. Can you help?

Vinnie Novak.

Dear Vinnie,

There are several ways to help your friends know how much line they are letting out while fishing. You don't tell me what kind of line you use, but my guess would be that it is monofilament. If this is the case then there are several ways to accurately mark how much line you are letting out. The easiest I find is to use a magic marker and mark the line at 50 foot intervals with a 3 to 6 inch long mark. You'll notice that the mark will fade a bit after use, but in most cases, the faded mark is still easily discernible.

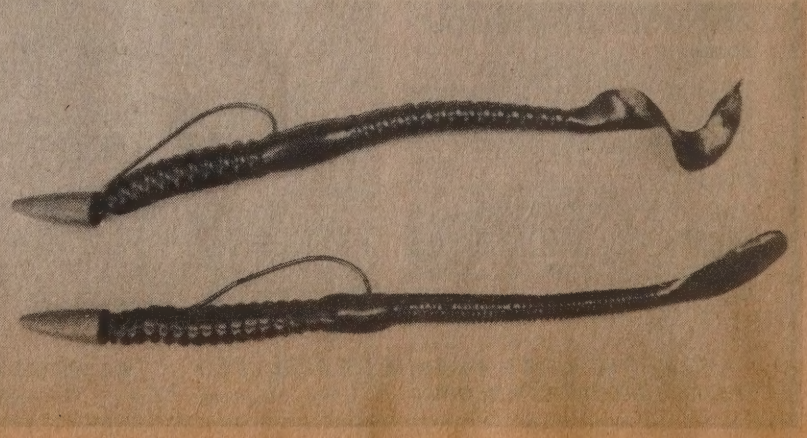
Use different color markers to indicate how much line is out. For instance: a black mark on the line indicates 50 feet is out, a red mark could then indicate 100 feet of line out, and a green mark 150 feet and so on. You can also use 6 inch strips of dental floss which you wrap tightly around the line at your chosen intervals. If you placed these strips at 50 foot intervals, then the third strip out would indicate that 150 feet of line is in the water.

You may also want to tie blood knots. The advantage here is that a blood knot will never fade or unwrap. If you are using wire line, then 10 inch long thin strips of 3M tape works very well to indicate how much line you have let out.

I've never seen plastic worms actually melting together, but yes, they do have a tendency to melt ordinary plastic containers. Plastic worms of different colors will transfer some color if placed together. The reason for the melting of some plastic containers and the blending of colors is due to the petroleum based plasticizers that are used in these worms. These plasticizers react badly to certain chemicals in the plastics they touch. The way to prevent this problem is to buy those plastic worm boxes that have the manufacturer's seal which states that it is impervious to plastic baits and worms.

To prevent worms of different colors from blending, just place them in different compartments in the box or put them in a ziplock bag. Those ziplock bags are tough and do not react to the plasticizers used.

Your last question is a dandy. Airplanes use another type of radio system altogether than the boater's VHF. I am unaware of what channels these spotter planes would use and you would not be able to monitor their



broadcasts while using your VHF radio anyhow. Your best bet here is to read the weekly fishing reports in The Fisherman for up-to-date fishing information. Your questions were certainly not 'dumb." Thanks for asking them.

* * *

Dear Doc,

Will baitfish such as killies and pond shiners stay alive in waters from 70 to 100 feet deep or will they die because of the water pressure?

Carmine Russo.

Dear Carmine,

Some veteran lake trout fishermen that I've talked with claim that shiners hold up fairly well in deep waters from 70 to 100 feet. Killies, however, are less likely to survive such a depth because they are basically shallow water fish. Other factors to consider that may kill both of these baitfish is the extreme difference in water temperature between the surface and the deep water. The surface water may be in the high 70 to 80 degree range, while the waters between 70 to 100 feet may be only 50 degrees. There's a good chance that even if the shiners or killies could withstand the pressure they may be literally knocked out cold by the quick change in temperature.

One fish that does hold up well in deep freshwater is the common alewife. The alewife spends much of its time in the deep waters of large lakes and impoundments during the fall and winter. But even in the warmer months these forage fish make excellent bait and will hold up to being dunked in deep water.

* * *

Dear Doc,

I have been a subscriber to The Fisherman for a short time, but I look forward to reading your column. You know, it's never too late to teach an old salt new tricks. I have been looking high and low to find out how to tie the knot called the Monkey's Fist. It is used on the end of a throwing line. I have seen it about for years on key chains, etc., but I cannot find directions to tie one. I have looked in Chapman's to no avail. Could you tell me where I could get this information? Yours in fishing, *Vernon W. O'Hara.*

Dear Vernon,

The Monkey's Fist is used to tie a lead weight into the end of a heaving line. Sailors would use this knot quite often to toss a heavy line from one vessel to another or to a dock. I've found out that there is a book that tells you how to tie the Monkey's Fist. The book is "The Art of Knotting and Splicing," by Cyrus Day. This book and many other fine books are available from International Marine Publishing Company, 21 Elm St., Camden, ME 04843; Toll Free 1-800-637-9240.

The book by Cyrus Day costs $19.95 plus $3 for shipping and handling. The reference number for ordering is 1080. Hope this helps you out!

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Dock Lines

by Eric Burnley

Several weeks ago we answered a letter from a fisherman who was having a problem with bow rise on his 14 foot aluminum boat. Our reply suggested the steady application of power when going up on plane and the addition of extra weight in the bow.

After the column ran we received a call from Doel-Fin Inc., makers of the Hydrofoil. They assured me that the addition of their product to the outboard or I/O motor on any boat will not only eliminate bow rise but improve handling and decrease the time it takes to get the boat on plane. You can find out more about this product from Doel-Fin, Inc., Grand Sports Distributing, 638 Willis Avenue, Williston Park, NY 11596; (516) 741-3022.

* * *

Dear Eric,

When I use my Loran to navigate a course from one point to another it gives me a compass heading and I try to keep my compass on that course. If I do this, I get an off-track indication from my Loran and I have to deviate from my compass course to get back on track. It seems my compass and my Loran do not agree. Which do you suggest I correct?

Ivan Bostich.

Dear Ivan,

You probably won't have to correct either piece of equipment. It is perfectly normal for you to correct your compass heading in order to stay on track from one waypoint to another. The only correction you may want to do is the addition of a variation correction to your Loran. Check your operator's manual to find out how to make this adjustment. The variation for your area is noted on the compass rose of the NOAA navigation chart.

Under the assumption that your compass and Loran are properly installed and adjusted, the reason you must correct your compass heading in order to stay on track is the outside forces that play against your boat nd push it off course. Wind and current usually exert the greatest force but I find the constant shifting of the waves puts me off course more than anything else. My boat is only 20 feet long and is easily moved about by the waves. I have run 40 footers that also required course correction.

Before we had Loran we navigated with only a compass and relied on experience to figure out how much to cheat against the heading. Normally, we could run very close to the actual compass course when heading out but had to cheat on the way back in. The winds are usually calm in the morning but pick up out of the southwest or southeast in the afternoon. Under these conditions we would cheat into the wind correcting from 5 to 10 degress or more towards the south.

As an example, if I ran a 120 degree heading out I might have to run a 190 or 195 instead of a 300 heading back in to compensate for the southerly wind. The track computed by your Loran does not compensate for the wind and the current. To stay exactly on track you must do the compensating yourself. The Loran crosstrack error function lets you know when your compensation is correct in a

matter of minutes. We had to wait until we made landfall to find out how close to the inlet we really were and there were times when we were not very close at all.

* * *

Dear Eric,

I plan to replace the bilge pump on my boat because it has an intermittent problem where it runs sometimes and does not work at other times. Do you think I would be wise to put in an auto pump or stick with a manual one. My boat is trailered and is never left in the water. *Jerry Dutton.*

Dear Jerry,

I don't think you need an automatic bilge pump for your application. The advantage of an automatic pump is it will come on should the bilge fill with water and no one is aboard the boat to turn on the manual pump. If your boat is never left unattended you won't need an atuomatic pump.

Before you replace your pump you should check all the connections to your present one. Intermittent operation is often the result of corroded or loose connections between the pump and the battery. Check the bilge pump switch and the connection between the wire from the pump and the wire from the switch. Your best bet is to cut the old connection away and redo them. Corrosion can occur inside connections and even in soldered joints, so the only sure way to eliminate them is to make new connections. If the switch and the connections check out, the pump must be replaced.

* * *

Dear Eric,

I am trying to find a used boat that I can use inshore for fluke and bluefish plus an occasional trip further out for sharks and maybe a tuna. I don't have a great deal of money to spend and I have found some boats in my price range, but they were rather old and constructed of wood. Is it wise to purchase a wooden boat or should I hold out until I find something in fiberglass? *Les Davis.*

Dear Les,

There are some very fine wooden boats still on the water. The price is usually quite reasonable because the demand for this type of boat is very low. Generally speaking, people do not want to do the amount of work required to keep a wooden hull shipshape.

I am old enough to remember when all boats were made of wood. We spent several days each spring getting them ready for the season by scraping, cleaning, painting and caulking. I am sure there are people who enjoy this type of activity, but I considered it dull, hard work.

Before you buy any wooden boat have it checked over by a knowledgeable marine surveyor or ship's carpenter. If the boat is sound and you don't mind doing the upkeep, go ahead and jump aboard.

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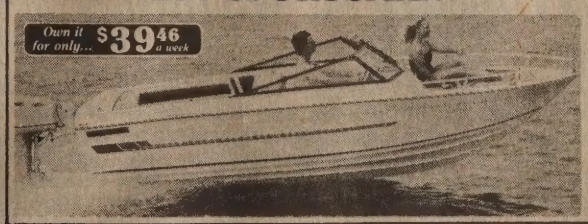

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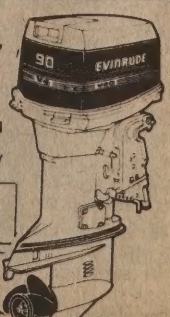

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PCB BLUEFISH

—by William A. Muller—

July may be a rather poor month for inshore bluefishing in our area, but it was the month this year that the National Marine Fisheries Service released its final report on a survey of the toxic chemical PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) in Atlantic bluefish.

Concerned about the possible danger of eating various species of fish, Congress charged the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with the task of determining the risk. The NMFS conducted its research in cooperation with the Food and Drug Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. The survey was conducted between January and November of 1985.

In addition to levels of PCBs in bluefish, the document also contains information on uptake and PCB metabolism in bluefish, PCB uptake in bluefish prey species, information on toxicology and human toxicology information.

The report looks at PCB contamination in small (less than about 12 inches), medium (up to about 20 inches), and large (greater than about 20 inches). Blues were harvested in 12 collection sites in five geographic areas: New England, New York Bight, Maryland-Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. However, fish were not available when sampling was done in Florida and as a result, only eleven sites actually contributed fish to the survey.

Scientists were attempting to identify if any of the blues exceeded the 2 ppm limit for PCBs established by the EPA and FDA. Above the 2 ppm level, fish are considered dangerous if consumed regularly.

The findings of the study may be considered startling by some and unsurprising by others, depending upon your point of view and previous knowledge of PCB contamination in striped bass. In striped bass, for example, the data has not indicated safety in eating small fish or danger in eating large fish. Some small bass tested and some large bass tested contained dangerous levels of PCBs. **Not so in the case of bluefish!**

"For small bluefish, the maximum percentage of population samples that exceeded 2 ppm PCBs was virtually zero." Although PCB levels in medium fish were low, the data indicates up to a 20 percent chance (approx.) that a medium bluefish could contain PCBs in excess of 2 ppm.

However, for a large bluefish (fish over 20 inches) there exists up to a 72 percent chance that a fish will exceed the 2 ppm level of PCBs. How big is a 20 inch blue? About 2½ to 4 pounds, depending upon season and individual genetics. I make that point because when anglers describe bluefish as big these days, they mean fish over 10 pounds.

Thus the danger of PCBs in blues can be minimized by eating only bluefish under 4 pounds, or thereabouts. There are a lot of small blues around, but there are also a lot of big blues around. Thus, what should an angler do? Well, if you eat a big blue occasionally, then we are told the danger from a blue laced with PCBs over 2 ppm isn't too bad. Of course, does the angler also eat white perch, eels, and stripers which have been found to contain high levels of PCBs? If so, such a fisherperson and his or her family would be well advised to reconsider their dietary habits with respect to fish.

In general, we will all be better off eating smaller blues, according to this report. Blues don't freeze well, so we are really dealing with fresh fish only. Small blues are great on the barbecue as well as baked. There are many great recipes for blues and they all taste better with small fish anyway. The fillets, steaks, chunks, etc., are easier to work with.

What to do with the big blues we catch? This report should reinforce what many fishermen have been saying for a long time. Carefully release the fish you don't need. Big blues have only a modest commercial value, as food for the family they now become suspect, but they sure provide us with a ton and a half of fun. If we release them, perhaps they will grow even larger.

I was in a tackle store the other day and heard a customer complain about a recent trip to Montauk. "Bluefish all over the place! I was fishing under the light and I just shook most of them off. Damn, they're like pests!" I had some advice for this customer, and it's the same advice I give everyone who complains that blues are pests. I tell them not to curse blues, because in 10 or 20 years they might be very scarce and then you'll miss them like you can't imagine now. I also tell them how until the 1970s a blue over 10 pounds was not common, and that there have been times when there were very few blues in our area of any size. We have been spoiled because we haven't had a bluefish scarcity since about the late 1940s. We often don't appreciate what we have when

we have a lot of it, but miss it when it's gone. Remember that! What would we have done in the surf, for example, a few years ago when there were very few weaks and bass were scarcer than hen's teeth, but blues carried the load! Please be thankful for blues and treat every one with respect. **Carefully** let go the ones you will not eat!

Another interesting result of the survey was that geography seems to make a big difference. For example, fish taken in New York Bight often exceeded the 2 ppm level. In fact, the percentage of greater than 2 ppm samples was greater than any other sampling site (45%). Next was North Carolina (up to 28%), and last was New England with percentages around three or four percent regardless of season.

Toxicity of PCBs in humans has been well documented, although extreme disease situations have resulted from extremely high exposure. For example, the Yusho incident, in which rice oil was contaminated with PCBs. The level of intake of PCBs in the Yusho incident was so high that symptoms were sudden and acute. These people were calculated to have consumed about 37.5 milligrams of PCBs per day. A similar situation occurred in Taiwan in 1979 (Yu-Chang disease).

The EPA and FDA have set 2 ppm as the safe level and that equates to about 1 mg per kg (body wt) per day. Without getting mathematical and too technical, let me just say that the above level is only a very small fraction of the 37.5 mg per day consumed by people in the Yusho incident.

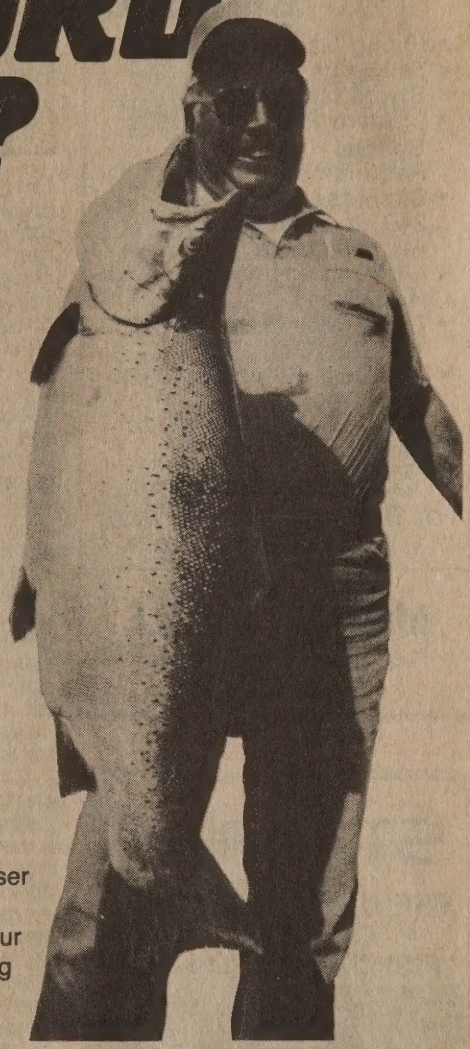
Why has the government set such low levels for PCB contamination? Is this level realistic? Let's remember that in cases of world-wide notoriety about PCB diseases, the symptoms were severe, sudden, and acute. These included skin lesions, pigmentation changes, skin eruptions, neurological disorders, muscle weakness, lack of coordination, and skin ulcers. There are, however, PCB related diseases that take a long time to develop and, we have reason to believe, result from rather low levels of exposure over time. Perhaps the most significant of these is liver cancer and liver disease in general.

It is the concern about liver cancer that has caused us to issue a warning about low levels of contamination. The danger is even greater if the fish are thought to contain high levels of PCBs.

Thus, the report should tell us the following:

1. More evidence in support of moderation. Eat fish that may contain PCBs only once in awhile.
2. Eat a few smaller blues this year, and enjoy the big ones on the end of your line.
3. Release all the blues you don't use, because they have such a tremendous value in the water as recreational fish.

THINKING RECORD FISH?



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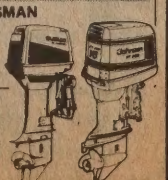

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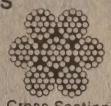
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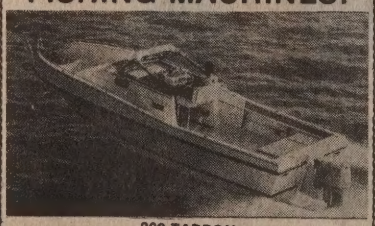
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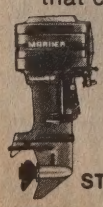
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TALES OF YORE

by Matt Ahern

I'm an old-time fisherman. And being an old-time fisherman, I share many memories with the old-timers who read The Fisherman. There isn't one of us who can't recall the excellent fishing we enjoyed in the long ago. Should you be acquainted with one of these old-timers, get him started on his favorite subject. What he'll tell you will be positively amazing. I know, too, that the tales he'll tell you will seem hard to believe, especially when compared to today's often lackluster fishing.

Along about 1930 I was handling a mate's job here and there, but not as a steady diet aboard any one particular boat because I still hadn't gotten permanently connected. I would usually put in a day here and a day there, offering my services between Canarsie and Sheepshead Bay. I even put in a few days handlining bluefish for the commercial market (which, incidentally, might make a good story for a future article).

On the particular day this story starts, my luck was bad—but then the Depression was gathering steam and it seemed everyone's luck was bad. It was 1931 and the Fourth of July holiday was due in a few days. All the extra mates jobs on the Sheepshead Bay party boats were spoken for, and there I was in Canarsie double-checking the boats I had already inquired about just in case someone cancelled out. But no luck. So, much discouraged, I made my way to the trolley, formulating plans for Artie Leidecker (with whom I still fish today) and myself to put a dent in the fluke population residing in the Rockaway area of Jamaica Bay. Some way, I consoled myself, by hook or by crook, I'd get to go fishing.

While walking through Canarsie's Golden City Amusement Park, no doubt muttering to myself about the vagaries of life, I heard my named called. I turned around and spotted "Old Emil." Emil was a long-time charter boat skipper, one of the shrewdest and best bay fishermen I ever knew. Already in his eighties at the time, Emil was as spry as any man twenty years his junior. This excellent fisherman didn't specialize in any one species of fish, as did most charter boat skippers of the day. If you were interested in catching a particular Jamaica Bay fish, Emil could get them for you—no ifs, ands, or buts.

Emil looked me over and seemed to make a mental calculation. "I got six pilgrims for a fluke charter on the Fourth," he explained in his Finnish accent. "You hooked up?"

My pulses quickened at the magic words. Saved! "Couldn't connect," I said.

"Well, Marty, my boy," he replied, using the name everyone did at the time, "You're connected now. Be on board at five."

Our six fishermen showed up on time and in minutes we were on our way, stopping only to pick up a tub of killies at Louie's Pier in Roxbury. (Ten cents a quart!)

It was at this time that the work on the Rockaway Inlet jetty was nearing completion (1931), and it was in this area where Emil planned to do our fluke fishing, drifting along the length of the jetty on the inlet side.

I knew the fishing was always good here and I hoped our charter would give me permission to fish. I had worked charters before and had never been refused, but you could never tell—there's always a first time. But these guys were just as good about it as those of previous charters, and after I got them squared away with riggings and so forth, they made room for me.

Incidentally, bay charter boats those days were small. Most could accommodate six fishermen in comfort, although if needs be, and depending upon the type of fishing, eight could squeeze in.

Well, anyway, as I say, we ran out to the inlet, hugged the newly constructed jetty and, beginning at the ocean end, we started our first drift. As I recall, it was a beautiful day; ideal, in fact. The newly-born incoming tide was countered by a light breeze from the northwest, which gave us perfect drifting conditions. The water seemed as calm as deep inside the bay. As far as boat traffic was concerned, compared to today's conditions, it was nil. There was no thought about drifting or passing over other fishermen's lines. All that was necessary was to make sure the boat was kept safely away from the jetty rocks. And that was Emil's job—all I had to do was fish.

And fish I did.

It was truly a remarkable day. I'm sure you've heard tales on how good fluke fishing was 'way back when. I've told my share too. But this day beat all my other stories hollow. It was the best fluke fishing day I ever had—bar none.

I know you've fished areas where bergalls were so thick, you couldn't get the slack out of your line before the bait was attacked. Well, just use your imagination and put fluke in place of bergalls—for that's the way it was that day. I suppose all fishermen of those times were spoiled rotten by the good fluke fishing we had come to expect as normal, but that day was above the ordinary run of things.

As soon as our rigs hit bottom, we found it necessary to quickly reel in the slack to avoid throat-hooking the greedy fluke and thereby lose time in hook removal. The instant the sinker hit bottom, I would give a slow lift and a fluke was on. There was no waiting for the fish—they were waiting for us!

I've often written about how fluke lie in lanes. It was this wild fishing that first called it to my attention, and it was Emil who first explained it to me. The only respite we got from fish-catching was when we drifted into an area barren of fluke. And the instant we drifted into one of those fluke containing lanes, all of us would lift fluke aboard with wild abandon. I'd never seen anything like it before—nor have I since. No one bothered to net the fish—just lifted them right in. It didn't mean a thing if now and then one threw the hook. (Incidentally, there were few fish over 3 lbs.—most were 1½ to 2 lbs. I think the pool fish was a 5 pounder.)

I kept my fish separately in a large built-in fish box. (Emil didn't wet a line that day) and when we decided to call it a day, I began to count my catch. When I reached somewhere in the 70s, I stopped counting—and there were still more to go!

I'm sure that according to what you just read, you would be justified in calling me a fish hog. And I guess in light of today's fishing, you'd be absolutely right. But in those long-gone days there were so many fish of all varieties available, and the catches often large, no one actually considered himself a fish hog. We never considered the possibility that such good fishing would ever come to an inglorious end.

Well, anyway, in the story just concluded, I mentioned there were no big fluke caught. How would you now like to read one where every fluke caught was a doormat? Well...here goes—and I hope you still believe Old Matt, for this one's a dilly.

My buddy Artie Leidecker had just purchased the "Echo"; the same one he uses today for offshore trips. It wasn't the first trip we made aboard her, but it was close to it. Artie had taken over the "Echo" (actually "Echo of the Morn") in June and this phenomenal fluke catch occurred during the latter part of August: August 28, 1942 to be exact—a Friday.

Artie and I had heard about some darned good catches of sea bass, porgies and blackfish off Sea Bright, New Jersey and we decided to get in on the action. So, on this beautiful morning we got an early start and arrived off Sea Bright about eight o'clock. There was only one hitch: we didn't know where to fish, although we knew that if you dropped anchor anywhere in the vicinity, some kind of action was assured.

Because of the war, no one was permitted too far offshore. A line about even with the Cholera Bank was about it. Although no fanatical U-Boat skipper was about to waste a $50,000 torpedo on a party boat, no one was about to test the courage of his convictions—so most private boats remained pretty close to shore those days.

As I say, we were undecided as to the exact spot to begin fishing. This annoyance was quickly solved, however, when we came up on the R C Lundy out of Sheepshead Bay. If crackerjack skipper Gus Rau felt this particular area meant good fishing, it was good enough for us.

We worked inshore a bit, probably no more than 1000 feet from the Lundy and got the hook over. Using skimmer, we began to lift some nice humpbacked sea bass over the rail, with an occasional big sea porgy and larger blackfish. What we had been told about the exceptional fishing was true in every word.

And then it happened!

Artie began to reel in a small bergall when his rod bent over with such force, it struck the rail with a resounding whack. We figured it was one of the monstrous sea bass which rumor claimed were available on these grounds. It didn't take us long to reason that this was no sea bass. And we were right. Up came a huge doormat fluke, swimming leisurely in slow circles, the bergall draped from the side of its mouth.

I stuck the gaff into a fluke that later weighed a shade over 12 lbs. We figured this was just a lucky shot and resumed fishing. Artie nailed another one, but lost it on the way up. This time we took the hint and changed to fluke gear. We used porgy strips for bait, and so help me, began to hook one big fluke after another.

A small boat went by while our spectacular fishing was going on and we waved them over, urging them to get in on the action. That area must have been saturated with those huge fluke, for those fishermen aboard the new arrival immediately began to hook into those monsters. Those fish were still biting when we left, but as Artie always says (and insists upon), enough is enough.

Our fluke catch that day consisted of 21 doormats, which when later weighed at the dock ran from 8 to 13 pounds. The largest sea bass reached four pounds, a porgy hit nearly three, and our blackfish were between 2 and 6 pounds. All in all, a marvelous day, one not soon forgotten.

So—there are two tales of exceptional fluke fishing days. I'll never forget them; that's certain. But as I said before, many old-timers can match them

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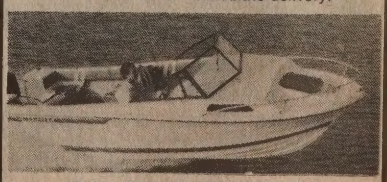

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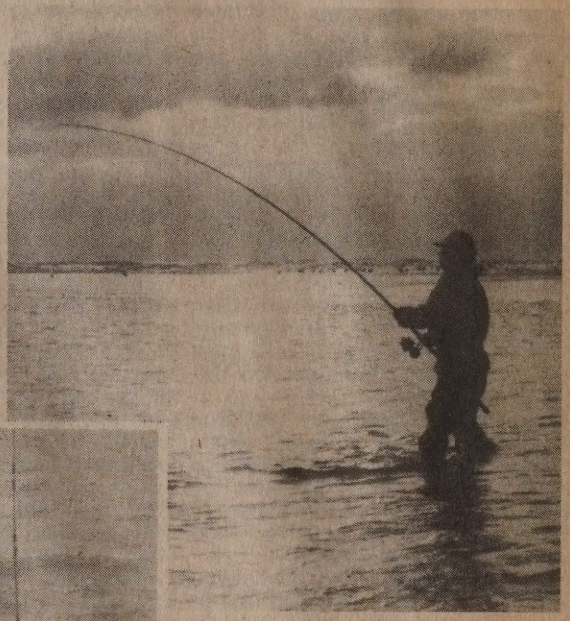

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SPORTING BLUES

by Fred Laager

I envy those who are good at catching fish and I am fascinated by their skill. There is something intriguing about a person who does something well: a person who is exacting and strives for precision; a person who has a sense of fair play, a sportsman; a person dedicated to perfect performance who, through the force of will power and moderation, can limit his catch and still derive a feeling of accomplishment from his actions.

"Before you can turn a fish loose you must catch one," I thought as I dialed my good friend's number on the phone.

"Good afternoon, Edelman's Sporting Goods, Bruce speaking, may I help you?"

"Sure Bruce," I said, "You can help me if you meet me at the ramp in Port Jefferson in an hour. The blues are in and they are taking poppers on top. Got five last night. How about it?"

"I get off from work in five minutes," Bruce said, "I'll meet you at six. Got to go now."

So it was set. I got the boat ready and sharpened a few hooks while I waited by the ramp for Bruce to arrive. Within an hour of my calling, we were launching the boat and readying the gear.

"Where are we going to fish?" he asked as we started the engine and headed across the harbor.

"Over near Conscience Bay," I replied, "in an area called The Narrows."

We arrived at our destination and rigged up our lines putting on the lures we each thought would be hot. I was using a blue and white Atom popper and Bruce was using a small Creek Chub popper in chrome. Our rods were of the plugging type, each in the same length of 7½ feet and both were rigged with 8 pound test. My Abu 5500C was a mirror image of Bruce's Daiwa 4HM and these were the perfect reels for the kind of fishing we were doing. Confident that our gear was in perfect working condition, we began to cast and it was only a matter of seconds, before Bruce had the first fish on.

It came out of the water, took the plug and disappeared, leaving nothing but the memory of the strike, a screaming reel and a bent rod as its legacy. For 10 minutes the line raced up the channel and then down. Twice the fish headed toward a mooring using the swift current to his advantage but Bruce thumbed the reel spool and put enough pressure on him to halt his progress both times. Finally, the fish began to tire and he spent the last morsels of his strength in a series of three head-shaking jumps that sent the surface trembling. The fish was ours now, so I reached for the net and stood ready as Bruce pumped him close to the side of the boat.

"Forget the net, Freddy boy," Bruce said, "I'll tail this one!" And with those words he held the rod high overhead and gently but securely reached behind the fish, grabbed its tail and hoisted it into the boat placing it gently on the floor.

Clearly the fish didn't like the indecency of the rear-end approach, but I'm sure that if he were given the option of either being gaffed in the jaw or lifted by hand, the latter would have been his choice of landing methods for its injures only his pride; not his body.

Within a second the fish was in the boat and Bruce had thrown a wet rag over Mr. Yellow Eye's face to calm him down and prevent further injury. While holding the blue's head

(Continued on next page.)

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securely in place with the slight pressure from his foot, Bruce grabbed the hook shank with a pair of pliers and with one swift motion, removed it from the fish's jaw. He then grabbed the fish by the tail, lifted him overboard, cradled him in the water for a moment allowing him to regain his strength and let him swim off to be caught another day. The whole process took less than 30 seconds and by the end of the day we had caught and released six fish in the same way and kept only one for supper.

Releasing bluefish is a tricky affair that requires as much practice and skill as catching them. REmember, bluefish have an impressive set of ivories. Those razor sharp teeth, capable of biting a whole menhaden in two, could very easily remove a few fingers from the hand of a clumsy or careless fisherman; so extreme care should always be exercised when handling these fish. Protect yourself at all times and if you find that releasing bluefish is too dangerous for you, don't release them! The angler's safety is far more important than the fish's.

But if you feel comfortable in handling these fish, there are several methods of landing them that are commonly employed. All of these methods will lessen the fish's trauma or shock of being caught and all of them strive to get the fish back into the water fast without banging the fish around or causing excessive injury. Some methods are best practiced from a boat while others are only useful when fishing from shore. Find the one you are most comfortable with and practice it until proficient.

The most common method employed in releasing bluefish is netting, but if practiced incorrectly both the fish and the net could be badly damaged beyond repair. All too often a bluefish will struggle uncontrollably in a net, getting the hooks from a lure tangled hopelessly in the webbing. As he struggles he will further damage the area where the hook is lodged increasing the odds of his eventual death. He might bite through the net and get his gill plates or gills damaged in the netting causing terminal injury. If he gets tangled too much; if freeing him, the lure and the line takes too long, the time factor alone in keeping him out of the water will cause him to drown. But there is a way to net fish effectively and return them swiftly and unharmed.

Netting must be swift and tangles must be avoided. Extra hooks on lures, especially treble hooks, should be removed and replaced by a single hook on the tail end of the plug. Less hooks equal less tangles and a faster return time. Also, when netting, the rod should be kept bent as the fish is cradled. This will keep his head and teeth away from the net proper while still allowing the mesh to support most of the weight. As soon as the fish is in the boat, remove him from the net, remove the hook, grab the tail

and lower him back into the water. If the process takes more than 60 seconds, keep the fish. He would probably die anyway.

The second method of landing and releasing bluefish is tailing. As the name implies, tailing is grabbing the fish by the tail, but this method should only be practiced if the fish is totally exhausted. If you plan on tailing a bluefish make sure he isn't "green." The fish should be tired out before you grab. If he has made only one run, make him take another by slapping the water and scaring him. The more runs he makes the easier it will be to grab him and handle him, but always exercise caution. A bluefish is a wild animal and like all wild animals they are unpredictable and don't always play by the rules. Respect those teeth and the keen eyesight that aims them at unsuspecting fingers both above and below the water.

The third method of landing a bluefish is gaffing. Though the gaff usually produces a mortal wound, it can be used effectively to land and manage large fish and release them with a minimal amount of trauma. Many tarpon fishermen employ this method of landing for the damage the gaff does is far less damage than the fish would cause to himself if allowed to thrash about on rocks or in the bottom of a boat. The trick to using the gaff humanely is to get the hook through the bottom center of the jaw of the fish where the puncture wound will heal easily once the fish is released. As in the tailing method the fish should be tired out, "played out," as much as possible so that you can place the gaff point on its mark in the center of the bottom jaw. When practiced correctly, gaffing can be useful in a host of angling situations.

Once, while fishing the outer bar off the mouth of the Nissequogue River I successfully caught and released 20 fish over 10 pounds using this approach. I was too far from shore to walk back to "beach" the fish and the bar I was on was under three feet of water. By gaffing I was able to hold the fish secure, remove the hook and set them free, none the worse for their ordeal. I also found that this was a good method to employ when fishing on jetties or on rocky beaches such as that under the lighthouse at Montauk. The fish are spared the beating they normally would take on the barnacle encrusted boulders. They are not manhandled or dropped and are held steady by their own weight while the hook is removed. By gaffing correctly, fish can be released quickly and efficiently.

The final method of landing to be discussed is "beaching." A fish is beached by directing him up onto shore by the constant pressure of the rod and line. If done correctly the fish will swim up onto the sand as he struggles, leaving himself high and dry. For the angler working a sandy shoreline this landing method is the easiest to employ and is easy on the fish as well. Strict care should be taken with the fish as with all methods of landing and prompt attention should be paid to getting the fish back into the water as fast as possible. When the surf is high, the fish should be held and revived in a calm pocket of water long enough for him to regain his equilibrium and strength. He should be pointed toward deep water and set free only when strong enough to swim. Fish should never be thrown back; they should be placed back.

Bluefish seem to exist in an endless supply, but as we all know, the same used to be said of blowfish, kingfish, striped bass and cod. Where are they all now? Perhaps if we as fishermen begin to place more emphasis on the quality of the fishing rather than the quantity of fish caught, if we as anglers take the responsibility to learn how to catch fish correctly giving our quarry a fighting chance, if we as sportsmen begin to teach others that releasing fish unharmed is often harder than catching them in the first place and that it is the more respected of the two, then and only then will the bluefish be saved from the fate of his fellows and continue to provide thrills and excitement for many generations to come.

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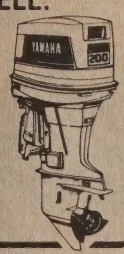

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A LATE SUMMER FLUKE FLING

by Terry Maltese

Fluke fishing in the New York Bight is better than most people realize. When the fluking in the Bight gets hot, it really gets hot. We had some simply incredible days in late August last season. However, there were also some long runs of terrible fluke fishing in the Bight last year. There are spurts when an angler couldn't ask for any more action and there are periods when the fishing gets pretty slow. For the most part, the fluke fishing is somewhere between these two points and is usually good enough to satisfy the angler.

Fluke are probably the most sought after fish in the Bight. The fluke's popularity is due to a variety of reasons. For one, they are excellent table fare. Another reason is that they are usually plentiful enough to make most trips worthwhile. They are good fighters, when caught on suitable tackle and, very often one need not travel very far from the beach to locate these flatfish. This is important to many fishermen, particularly those small boat owners who can't run long distances.

Tackle for fluke fishing varies quite a bit. I've seen guys using everything from ultra light freshwater spinning outfits to rods as heavy as the ones we use to troll for bluefish. It's a good idea to choose a light rod, yet heavy enough to handle the size sinker necessary to hold bottom. Some days where a light sinker can hold bottom, there is nothing wrong with that light spinning rod. The rod tip should always have some action for maximum sensitivity. A light to medium action 6 to 7 foot conventional outfit with a reel similar to the Daiwa Sealine 27H or Penn 9M is fine. A spinning rod in this category is okay, but I prefer conventional outfits. Your reel should be loaded with good quality 12 to 20 pound test monofilament.

Rigging up for fluke is not a difficult operation. All you need is a 3/0 or 4/0 Carlisle or Sproat hook on 2 to 3 foot leader and a bank sinker (usually about 3 oz., but this will vary depending on sea conditions). Attach the sinker to the end of your line via a loop. Then attach the hook's leader a few inches above the sinker (once again a loop can be used) or attach the leader directly to the sinker. I don't use any swivels, tubes, beads, or blades when fluke fishing. Two seasons ago we began experimenting with a green skirt. The leader slides through the skirt and the skirt rests on the eye of the hook. The rods with the skirt outfished the rods without it on more than one occasion. This skirt is something you may want to experiment with.

Fluke will hit a wide variety of baits. Use fresh bait when possible, but frozen bait is okay. We have had a great deal of success with combination baits. Think of a Chinese a la carte menu. Choose a bait from column A and a bait from column B and you have an excellent combination fluke dinner. Column A consists of strips of squid, fluke belly and sea robin. Column B consists of spearing, sand eels and live killies. Any one of the baits mentioned can be used individually, but if you choose to use a single bait you are probably better off with a bait from column B.

We generally hook sand eels and spearing through the eyes and live killies through the lips. Spearing and sand eels can also be rigged by hooking them through the mouth and out the gills. It is important to make a bait look natural. Never bunch up a bait on your hook and don't hook a bait fish in the tail. Squid strips should be narrow and should taper off, so they can flutter in the current.

Practically all of our fluke fishing is done while drifting. Fluke tend to congregate together and this is an important fact. When you hook a fish you should take notice of exactly where you are. There are probably more fish in that spot and you will want to return to it. If there are buoys or landmarks around you can use them to mark a spot. You can also use a marker buoy. A marker buoy is nothing more than a line with a plastic jug tied to one and and a sash weight or a few sinkers tied to the other end. It is a good idea to paint the buoy red. Blue ones will blend in with the water and white ones might be difficult to spot on days when there are whitecaps.

When a fish hits, throw the buoy overboard and it will mark that spot. There is a good chance there are more fish there. Now you can do up-drift of the buoy and drift by it again. Don't wait until the fish is landed to throw the buoy over, because by the time you land it, you may have drifted

The small boatman can share in much of this action if you "pick your days."

quite a bit.

When drifting for fluke, you should lift the sinker a few inches off the bottom and then drop it back down. We generally do this every few seconds. Quite often, you won't feel the fish hit until you lift your rod tip. At this point, you may feel a strong hit or just some extra weight. In either case, lower the rod tip giving the fish some slack and a few seconds to get the hook in his mouth. Then, reel in the slack, keeping the rod tip down, and set the hook with a snap of the rod tip. Once at the surface, any keepers (14 inches or more) should be netted. It's not too difficult to lose a fluke when you try to swing him in.

When there is no current and no wind, the angler has a problem. You usually have to be moving to catch consistently. Last August we had a real good run of good sized fluke, but as soon as the current stopped moving, the fishing stopped. There is a solution to this problem. Start the engine and kick the boat into gear. Get the boat moving and then put it back into neutral. Keep putting the boat in and out of gear in order to keep it moving. A small trolling motor is great for this. We did this last year when the fishing stopped due to the lack of a drift and we continued to catch fish, while the "drifting" boats stopped catching fish.

There are many spots in the New York Bight where fluke can be located. The Tin Can Grounds and Ambrose Channel often produce fluke. The water off Rockaway, Sandy Hook and Riis Park are popular spots for fluke fishermen. Fishermen can be found drifting for fluke on the Coney Island Flats and the water off Breezy Point and Plum Beach. Last year, our best days of fluke fishing were off Sandy Hook in August. We took quite a few good sized fluke within casting distance of the white buoys which mark Sandy Hook's swimming zone.

Doormat fluke have been known to inhabit these areas. There is a technique you can try to increase your chances of taking one of these doormats. Bring along a second rod, a bit heavier than your usual fluke rod. Rig this rod with a large bait, such as a smelt or a small whole snapper. Put the rod in a rod holder and fish it as a dead stick while you hold your regular rod. Every year some big doormats are caught and the next one may be yours.

Don't forget that any fluke under 14 inches must be released. Try to be gentle with these short fish. Don't yank the hook out of them. Hold them gently and carefully work the hook out. I often see fishermen yank the hook out of a short fish and throw him up in the air allowing him to crash into the water. There is no reason for this. If we handle these short fish carefully and release them, they will live to fight another day. If we don't take care to release shorts and avoid needlessly killing fish, we will have only ourselves to blame for the consequences.

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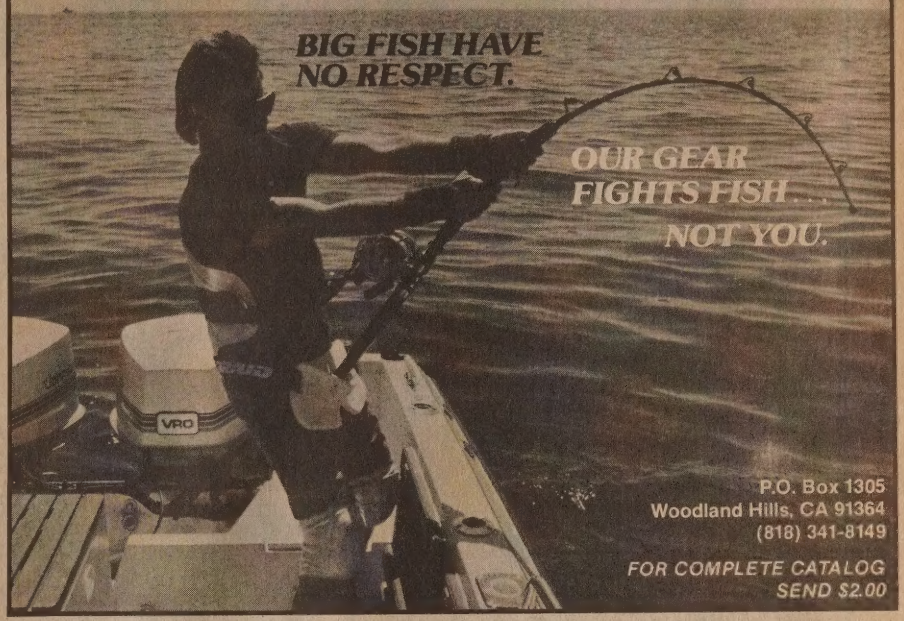

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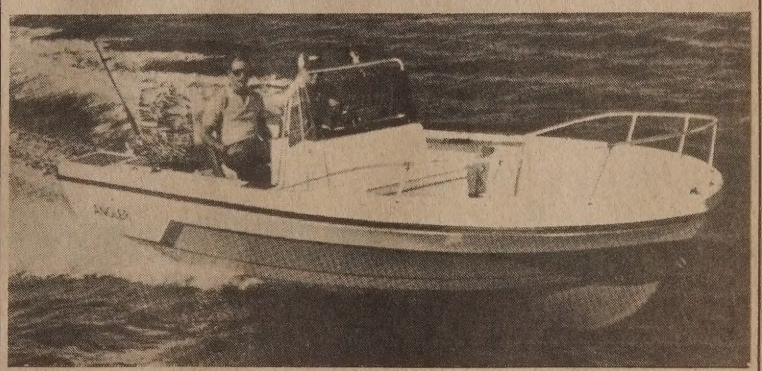

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MONTAUK TUNA PARTY

by Brian Mulholland

The party boat tuna season on Long Island is lamentably short. The first head boats that pursue these fish generally start doing so on Labor Day or immediately thereafter, though a good early run might prompt some skippers to begin sooner. Often, the season cannot be relied on to last beyond the end of September. The first good gale of autumn may scatter the fish and keep them dispersed until they migrate south for the winter. The angler who wants a shot at these fish has to hustle to make sure he gets it.

As I write this, the Viking Star is currently sailing a Monday and Wednesday tuna trip out of Montauk. These "overnighters" cost $125 and reservations are required. The Captree based Speedy VIII has tuna trips planned for early September. You might want to call for more details.

Anglers who are looking for a pleasant and leisurely day on the water will have to find it somewhere else; not on a tuna boat. The fishermen with whom I found myself sharing the rail during a Viking tuna trip last season, were a notably serious bunch. Most came on board with multiple rods and reels. On most fishing trips coolers are brought by an educated minority of anglers, but on this occasion almost everybody had brought a cooler and ice. The stern of the boat was floored over with fiberglass cooler boxes, and the Viking office did a brisk business selling anglers ice to go with it.

Tuna angling is enough of a specialty sport for the same regulars to bump into each other at frequent intervals. During the course of the day five different people inquired if they and I hadn't met previously on other party boats in pursuit of tuna in previous years. Two fellows who were industriously catching snapper blues for live bait turned out to be the same pair I'd met at the same corner of the Starship on a tuna trip the previous year. Two other anglers remembered an article on tuna trips past that I'd had in The Fisherman previously—boy, what an ego teaser. A fifth gentleman turned out to be someone with whom I'd shared a spectacular ten-line tangle aboard a Sheepshead Bay party boat two years previously. It really is a small world.

The day was foggy and overcast most of the time, which was ideal. Tuna are often shy in bright light. The lower the light level, the better off you are and a picturesque sunny day can make tuna fishing very difficult indeed. Overcast skies are often accompanied by enough rain and/or wave activity to make fishing difficult, but this day was perfect. We had gray sky, plenty of fog and swells so gentle as to be almost imperceptible for the length of the trip.

The author with a husky bluefin taken from the deck of a Montauk open boat.

We were anchored and chumming by dawn. Tackle always varies according to taste, but I was struck by the good condition of the rods and reels in use that day. I can't recall having seen so many Newells on a single party boat excursion before and half a dozen anglers had brought lever drag reels (Penn Internationals and one Shimano Triton) in the hope that really big fish would show up.

I'm a bit of a tackle nut myself and had brought three outfits along. On most boats this would be unusual, but virtually everyone on this trip had brought a variety of outfits and one man with whom I spoke had brought eight different outfits from 30 through 80 pound class. The point is simply that this was a very serious bunch. Tuna trips are scarce enough so that you have to work to get at them, and the fish are demanding. It's also possible that part of the boat's enthusiasm has something to do with the market price of tuna.

I started the day jigging to get away from the mob, and had the boat's first pickup somewhere around 7AM. I'd made two casts with a 40 pound line outfit and a 6 ounce Vi-Ke jig, which I'd worked to the surface slowly in the lift and fall technique of a codfisherman. On the third cast, the line stopped moving almost as soon as the

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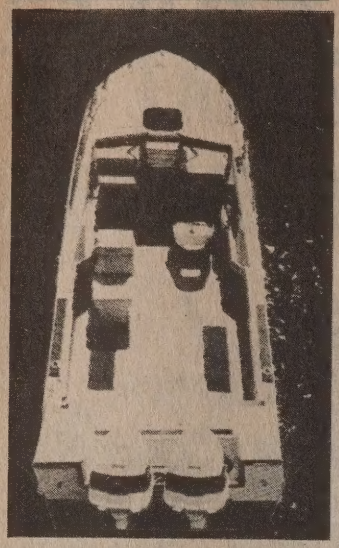

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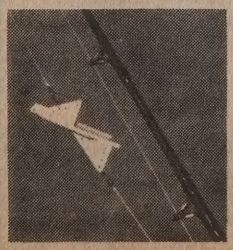

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jig had disappeared beneath the surface. I threw the reel in gear, turned the crank twice and found a solid weight on the far end of the line. Someone behind me inquired "Tuna or a bluefish?"

The question was a good one, because bluefish are an infernal nuisance for party boaters as well as those seeking fish from smaller hulls. Most tuna fishermen on party boats elect to fish bait, which is free spooled out on a drift with a little weight to keep it down. Bluefish will often get to these baits before the tuna. If sharks turn up in a chum slick meant for tuna, you can always switch to jigs, but that's hardly going to discourage a bluefish.

In this case, there was no doubt as to the identity of the fish on the far end of the line. Tuna have a very distinctive feel, and take off with a rush that no bluefish could ever equal. There are none of the head shaking thumps that a bluefish will generate, just a rush away.

Perhaps 50 yards of line went out from the spool before the fish turned and ran back at the boat. I lost the tuna within a few moments of the fish's turn. There's not much you can do in this situation; you really can't crank fast enough to keep a line taut when the tuna is charging straight for the boat. Still, it was a nice omen.

The boat was into tuna steadily for the next couple of hours. I joined the baitfishermen and over the course of the day landed one tuna of about 30 pounds and dropped half a dozen others. All of these other fish were on bait, and they got lost in typical ways: one managed to spit the hook just short of the gaff, drawing groans from the mates, three more got lost in tangles and one I missed by striking too soon. A bait eating tuna has to be given enough time to swallow the baitfish. How much time is a judgment call. If line is peeling steadily from my reel, I'll strike the fish after a slow count of 8 by throwing the reel into gear and lifting the rod as the line comes tight. Sometimes the line peels off in a couple of brief jerks, in which case I'll usually wait a few moments after the rush to see what's happening. Of course, this opens up a risk that the fish may feel the hook and spit it out. "You pays your money and you takes your choice."

I had a new rod and reel combination that I liked well enough to mention to other anglers. The reel was a Newell 454T, a 4/0 winch with a 4 to 1 gear ratio. The rod was a Saber "Stroker," 5' 8" in length. The short length of the rod really does work as advertised, to permit efficient pumping even against a fish that is almost directly under the angler. The shorter length also permits you to use a fast gear ratio far more easily than with a large rod and now I'm sorry that I didn't buy the reel with the 5 to 1 gearing. Oh well, live and learn. The outfit would be a poor choice for casting a jig, but that's what I had brought a Pacific Stik and smaller reel

to do.

As the day wore on, the fishing slowed down. The appearance of a bright sun and clear blue sky, though it lasted only 15 minutes, drew moans from some of the more experienced anglers on hand. No one wanted a rising light level to put the fish down, but this is almost inevitably what happens. If you know any spells to summon up clouds, a tuna trip is a good place to use them.

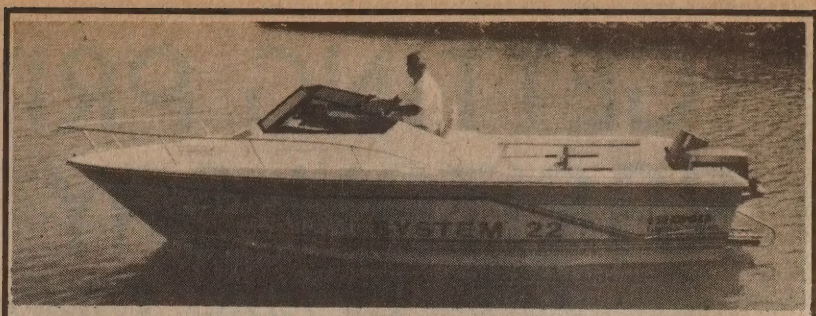
One of the reasons that anglers bring such arsenals of tackle on tuna trips it to be able to switch to lighter line which produces more hits, when the fish become picky. Several anglers on board had brought reels spooled with 30 pound monofilament. This is dangerously light when measured against the strength of the fish. The tuna were running from 20 to 35 pounds this day, but the 50 pound line and 4/0 or 6/0 outfits in use by most anglers were by no means disproportionally large for the fish. Far more fish were hooked and lost than landed, because it simply isn't possible to keep these fish apart from each other, and the tangles that you get with a boat load of anglers streaming bait down current are inevitably going to be elaborate. The problem could have been mitigated somewhat by more frequent use of swivels and by deliberately weighting some lines more or less than others to stagger the baits in the water column, but nobody paid too much attention to doing so.

Once the day got bright, those 30 pound outfits drew a lot more strikes. They did not necessarily land more fish, because on 30 pound line the tuna were able to lead anglers all over the boat. I think it's a good practice to have such an outfit along, but it's strictly a last ditch expedient for those times and places when heavier line does not produce. Please remember what a pest you will be if you are repeatedly led around a crowded boat by a tuna given room to run by a light drag.

A word about the mates. I had noticed that the service on tuna trips out of Montauk was exceptional. The mates I've met on the Viking boats work hard and seriously to ensure the fares land fish. The tip you leave should reflect this.

We had left the Viking dock at 3AM and were scheduled to return at 3PM. We came in early, but no one felt seriously deprived—not even those of us like myself with but a single fish to take home. Everybody had at least been hooked up a few times and all but a couple of anglers did have a tuna.

The tuna trip was unusual in one respect that a visitor should not count on. We were fishing in shirt sleeve weather and if anything, most anglers would have preferred brisker air temperatures for comfort's sake. But the September fishing season can change quickly, so it's prudent to bring your foul weather gear along. You can always take it off if you don't need it.



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GETTING PRIVY TO RARITAN BAY WEAKS

by Russ Wilson

Knowledgeable New York and New Jersey anglers who fish the expanse of Sandy Hook/Raritan Bay are closed mouth about their comings and goings. You might ask for help in finding fish, but I'd be willing to bet my last George Washington that you won't get much assistance from any of the guys and gals who know the ins and outs of catching weakfish.

There's a reason. Anyone who has spent time fishing the bay knows that "secret" hotspots are not a secret very long if word slips out that weakfish are biting.

A few years ago, for instance, we located a small area at Chapel Hill Channel that was loaded with the biggest kind of tiderunners. Each night we would leave Atlantic Highlands under cover of darkness and using all the cunning we had, would quietly make a turn at the breakwater and head across the Sandy Hook Channel to our "secret" spot.

A few tight-lipped individuals knew where we were catching and had a general idea of what bait we used, but not even our closest friends were privy to the exact techniques that produced fish on a nightly basis. On more than one occasion, a light would suddenly shine in our direction as a nearby angler tried to figure out why we were doing a number and he wasn't.

There were, however, others in on the bonanza. At least four of the "Mako" guys from across the bay were quietly slipping away from their area, crossing over to the Jersey side and loading up with weakies under cover of darkness. They, too, had the big weakies wired and weren't about to let too many others in on the action, fearing too much pressure would put an end to the easy fishing. Besides, most of the regulars were fishing for the market and did not want to see the price of weakfish drop.

Unknown to us, anglers fishing from ports at Staten Island were enjoying a similar situation at Great Kills, the Dental Works and in Princess Bay. They, too, didn't suffer a case of loose lips and it was weeks before word of their success finally slipped out.

Interestingly, very few of us bothered to fish during daylight tides. In this particular instance, it wasn't a case of not wanting others to see us catching, just that none of us felt the weakies would cooperate while the sun was beating down on the water and boats were zipping across the bay.

The fabulous weakfishing of the mid-70s is now history, but to give some idea of the kind of fishing we had, there were nights when two people could catch 50 to 75 big weakfish on a single tide. Not too shabby when you consider the fact that Raritan Bay is located within easy reach of more than 15 million anglers!

That was more than 10 years ago and although the weakfishing was good, the average size fish did not compare with the weakies that are available today.

Following the blitz fishing we enjoyed during 1975 and 1976, the weakfish all but disappeared. Of course, there were some fish taken from Chapel Hill, Orchard, the Dental Works, West Bank, Flynn's Knoll and at Romer Shoals, but the numbers just weren't there.

The guys who fish for the market (pin-hookers) stopped coming across and those of us who fish from Jersey basins found it easier and certainly more rewarding to sleep nights and fish days for blues, fluke or blackfish (tautog).

Today, the weakfish are back. They are bigger, more aggressive and plentiful enough to warrant serious attention. But, if you think that you are going to load the cooler by using tactics that paid dividends 10 years ago, you are in for a very rude awakening.

I believe recent regulations against menhaden netting have had a lot to do with the return of big tiderunner

A host of leadhead bucktails that produce on these grounds.

weakfish into the bay.

The curtailment of netting has allowed menhaden and herring populations to show a major increase throughout inshore coastal and bay waters. This increase in available baitfish has created a situation weakfish and other predatory species cannot resist.

Schools of bunker roam the bay, inhabit most sheletred harbors and can usually be found near the mouth of any estuary that flows into the bay. On days when winds are mild you can pick out the schools by the riffles they cause. At other times, you'll find schools of bunker by watching for the telltale splashes they make when one fish bumps another and panics.

It does not take a degree in marine biology to determine that weakfish are going to eat the bunker. Nor does it require too much grey matter to know that bunker is the best bait to use when seeking big weakies, blues or striped bass that live in the bay. Unfortunately, you need to know a little more than what bait to use if you hope to be a success at catching weakfish from Raritan Bay. If the fishing was that easy, everyone would be out there loading the fish boxes.

Many experienced saltwater fishermen feel the striped bass is the most unpredictable species, but in my opinion, the weakfish wins that contest. Weakfish feed when, and if they feel like feeding. You can read huge schools of weakfish on the chart recorder, see them swirling and not get a touch. I've had trips when I threw every lure in the tackle box, used a variety of proven baits and tried every possible trick in the book and still came up empty. It happens. That's what makes the weakfish so desirable. Anyone can catch bluefish and most anglers who put in the time will luck into some striped bass. When it comes to weakfish, however, you only catch when the fish want you to.

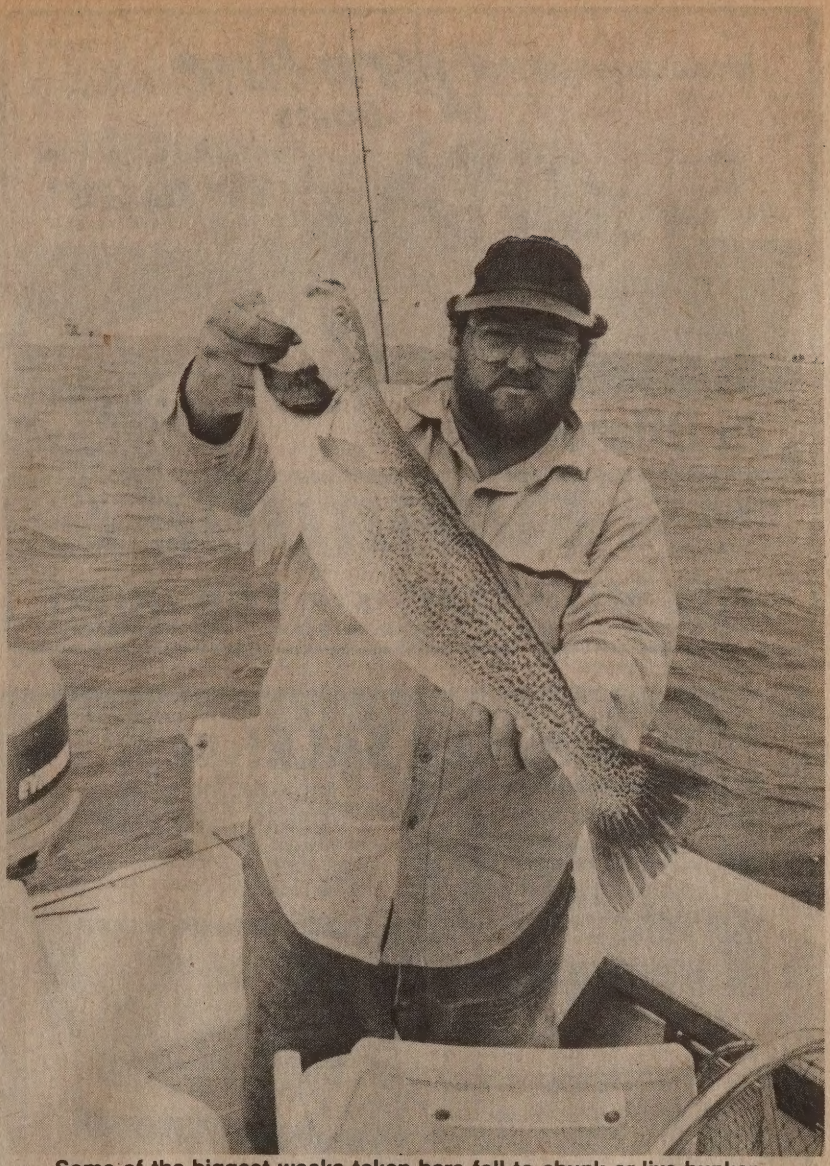
At any rate, Raritan Bay is loaded with the biggest kind of weakfish. I would not be too surprised if someone catches a new world record this season.

Last summer Francis Petillo of Middletown, New Jersey came close. Petillo fished just outside the breakwater at Atlantic Highlands and was using a live bunker when a huge, 18¼ pound tiderunner jumped on.

Fran Petillo is no stranger to catching big fish. He has several 50 pound stripers to his credit and has recorded more 40s than most any other angler in the area. When he saw the size of his weakfish, he stowed his tackle and headed for Julian's Tackle Shop to have it weighed before there was any loss of weight.

There were, according to Petillo, other huge weakfish, maybe some even larger than his 18¼ pounder, feeding in the same area when he moved off to have his catch verified.

Surprisingly, no one bothers to fish the harbor at Atlantic Highlands and there really isn't too much pressure placed upon some other potentially good weakfish waters.



Some of the biggest weaks taken here fall to chunk or live bunker.

Great Kills Harbor, Gravesend Bay, Princess Bay or the Arthur Kill which is located near Tottenville on Staten Island and Perth Amboy on the Jersey side of the bay are some of the spots that are worth a look. Orchard Shoals and the Dental Works are getting a lot of attention and have been producing some bragging size weakfish since early in July. The West Bank Shoals, Chapel Hill Channel and the entire triangle that is formed by Siwash Channel, East Reach Channel and Chapel Hill Channel are also worthy of atteniton.

Romer Shoal, both above and below the light that marks shoal waters are good also. In fact, most of the area that is located between Sandy Hook and Ambrose Channel are inhabited by weakfish that follow the bait as it moves down the bay with the outgoing tide.

As previously noted, menhaden are the primary food source of bigger weakfish. Most of the savvy fishermen who catch weakfish from the bay on a regular basis are using live bunker or chunks of fresh caught bunker.

A few die-hards are still using lead-head bucktail type lures of 1 to 1½ ounces and will sweeten them up by adding a strip of bunker, live killie, sand worm or plastic worm that has been dipped in concentated bunker oil to give it a little scent.

Sharpies who remember the action of the mid-70s have been following tradition by using the standard drift rigs baited with sand worm to enjoy a minimal amount of success.

I suggest anyone new to the game should stick with the live or chunked bunker. After you learn the lay of the land, or in this instance, how the dropoffs and holes are situated, you might try bucktailing or drift fishing with sand worms, but at the start you want to catch fish and bunker is definitely the best bait for that pur-

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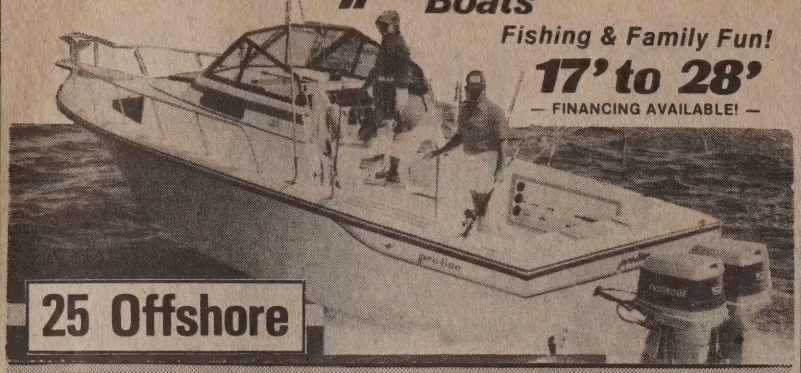
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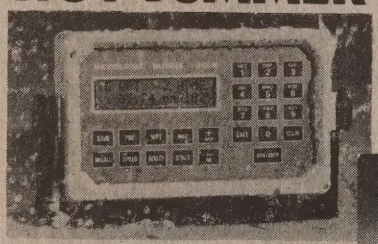
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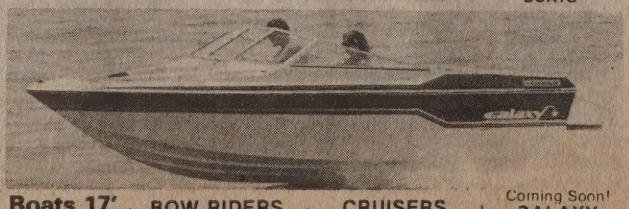
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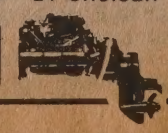

pose.

You'll need three distinctly different outfits when planning a trip for weakfish. One heavy duty outfit is needed to snag your supply of bunker. I like to use a stiff spinning outfit for this purpose and will usually carry a 6½ to 7 foot rod that is rated to handle weights of 1½ to 3 ounces and a reel filled with 17 or 20 pound test line.

You can purchase standard snag hooks at most any area bait and tackle shop or you can make your own by rigging two, three or four 3/0 treble hooks at one foot intervals above a weighted treble or four ounce sinker. The multiple hook rigs do give you the advantage of having four sets of hooks working all the time while the single weighted treble gives only one shot at the bunker.

Either way, once you have snagged a bunker, bring it into the boat as quickly as possible and get it into the live well immediately. Any bait that is bleeding profusely, will kill the others and should be stored separately in a cooler. Menhaden are a very hardy fish and will for live quite awhile in a live tank provided the tank water is changed often or is suplied oxygen from a small air pump.

Once you have acquired enough bait you have to look for the weakfish. Often the weakies will be mixed in with the schools of bunker and all you have to do is snag a bunker, transfer it to a second outfit that is rigged for livelining and drop the bait beneath the school of bunker. This is the easy way, but far too often you'll have to hunt for weakfish.

All of the spots that were previously menitoned are worth a look. I do feel that you should try to stay as close to the bunker schools as possible for that is where the weakfish that want to eat are most likely to be found.

This is where your second outfit comes into play. I like a mid weight rod of 7 feet for livelining and will generally match it up with a smaller reel than I use when livelining from surf or jetty. The Penn Squidder or Jigmaster in the junior size, Ambassadeur 6500C or 7000, Daiwa 30H or Shimano 50SG are suitable models.

Heavy line is not necessary. For most purposes 12, 15 or 20 pound test is sufficient and does not hamper the swimming action of the bunker. Hook size is, however, very important. I like to use the smallest hook possible and will normally rig with a short shank tuna hook in size 3/0, 4/0 or 5/0, depending on the size bunker I am using.

The manner in which bunker are hooked is equally important and can means the difference between catching and not catching. Most experienced liveliners place the hook forward of the dorsal fin so they can "steer" the bunker. I insert he hook about 1/4 inch into the meaty flesh of the bunker's back, just forward of the dorsal fin and find there is no less chance of having it turn back into the bait when

a big weakfish swallows it head first.

The third outfit is for security. There are times when weakfish won't smack a bunker, will ignore even the juiciest sand worm and will turn up their nose at a chunk of bunker that is oozing blood and oil. That's when it pays to break out the bucktails, Nordic eels, tiger tails and Sassy Shad type swimmers.

Most of these lures weigh less than two ounces and can be handled with a medium weight spinning or casting rod. Try to match the rod to a mid size reel and load the reel with 8, 10 or 12 pound test monofilament.

Weakfish are easily spooked by too much hardware, which means that the less hardware used the better. Experienced fishermen will normally tie the lures direct to the line, rather than use a snap swivel. This is a good practice when using conventional type casting equipment, but isn't practical for anglers who prefer spinning because of the line twist that develops with each turn of the reel handle.

If you are among those who use spinning I suggest you rig a short leader of 15 to 20 pound test mono and use a small ball bearing swivel between the fishing line and leader. This still allows you to tie your lure direct, but does overcome the twisting problem.

I've enjoyed my best weakfishing during periods of outgoing tide. Others say they catch during incoming but most of the really successful fishermen I've known subscribed to the outgoing tide theory. This does not mean it is impossible to catch weakfish on incoming or slack tide, only that the chances of catching fish are much greater on outgoing water.

These are Loran numbers of each of the spots mentioned. Remember, however, that the numbers will only put you in the immediate vicinity of a particular shoal or channel. Once you get on target, you'll find it pays to shop for the dropoffs, edges and deep holes that are likely to harbor weakies.

Anglers coming from Rockaway Inlet should home in on the Coney Island Flats, 27002/43772 and head across the bay. From Staten Island, the run is shorter and more direct to the Dental Works, Princess Bay, Arthur Kill or Orchard Shoals. It is a long run from basins located above the Verrazano Narrows, but I think it's worth the trip.

You'll find the Dental Works at 27086/43752. Anglers wishing to fish Arthur Kill should use TDs 27116/43752 and those who want to fish Chapel Hill Channel, can home in on 27021/43765, northern end, or 27015/43726, southern end.

Princess Bay is located at 27093/43753 while West Bank Light can be found by using 27023/43760.

Once you locate specific holes, ledges and dropoffs, jot down the Loran numbers so you can return to the same exact spot again. It is the only way to learn the hotspots.

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TUNA BEHAVIOR

Part Two—by Capt. Al Anderson

"Hey, what's goin'...Fish On, Fish On."

"Get those other lines in as quickly as you can." With that, my GM Detroit diesel 6-71 comes to life, the quick release is pulled and another "Chinese fire drill" occurs. As the bent butt outfit arches outboard and down, Ashaway 130 lb. class black dacron races overboard, following this giant tuna, totally overwhelming the preset 40 lb. strike drag setting. As line continues to be dumped, final clearing of the cockpit occurs and the signal is given for the angler to get into the chair. The rod is quickly passed, "bucket" lines snapped to the Penn International 130H and the "fanny" is pulled off the chair as the drag lever is advanced.

We were south and east of Block Island, with a fleet approaching perhaps 100 vessels. On this given day, only a few boats experienced action, with the bulk of the boats having a "no bite day."

"Conditions were the problem today," was heard more than once over the VHF. Flat calm, bright sun, very clear water, etc., surface as excuses for lack of success. "Fish have lockjaw." "Looks like the single mark, fish is 50 feet down."

"Okay, get the tail rope and fly gaff ready, do the double check. Wet those gloves and ring 'em out good before you put them on."

A good 15 minutes pass, double line has twice been out of the water and now suddenly it's on the reel, leader is in hand, gaff is easily laid over the back of the fish. Tail roping is a struggle, as caudal beats forearms and transom, finally snugged and congratulations given. On the cleat, this "giant tuna" is towed back through the fleet to the "ball," and the cockpit is straightened up.

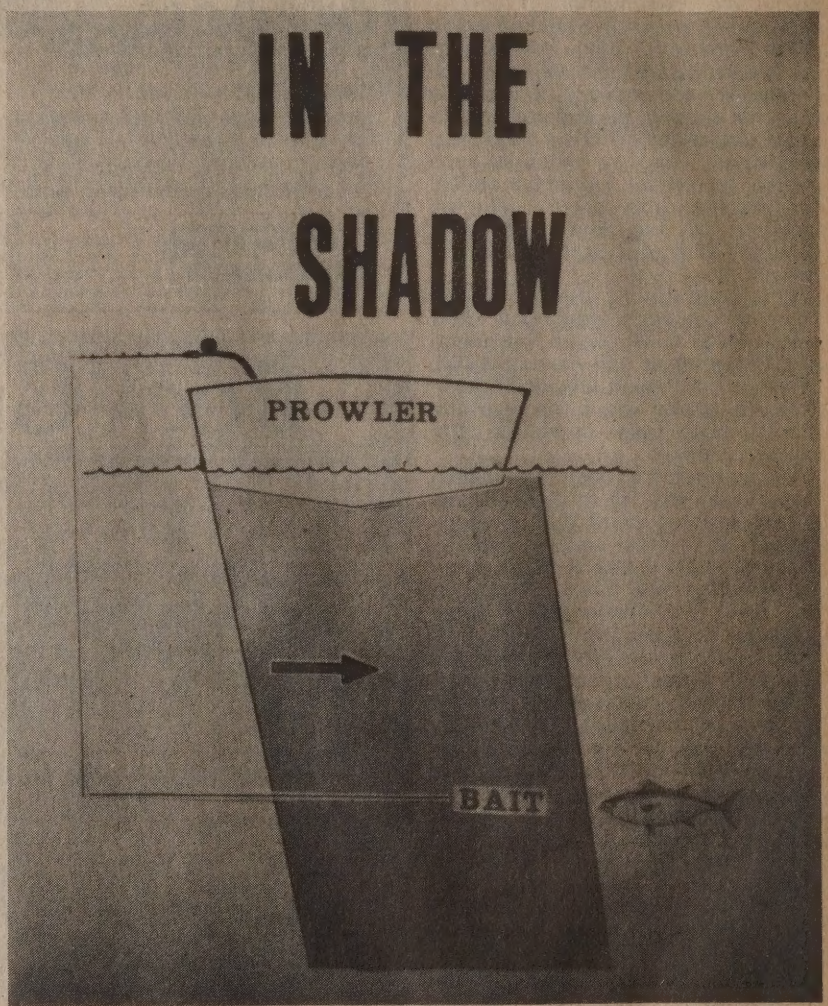
"How come us, captain? Looks like a no-bite day for the fleet."

"Probably just a little luck, or a real dumb fish, or possibly the in-the-shadow trick worked again today."

"What do you mean, 'in the shadow'?"

"Well, it has to do with the excellent eyesight of the tunas, what I call visual acuity."

Visual Acuity: Traditionally, northeastern recreational fishermen gave little or no thought to the visibility of their terminal tackle to a great varietyof species. Heck, codfish could easily be caught on rough, crude tackle, and oversize hooks, wire leaders, etc., did not seem to inhibit the appetite of bluefish. The successful striped bass fisherman spent many hours under the cover of darkness, suggesting a somewhat more delicate approach. In the 60s, Atlantic bluefin tuna could be readily caught, undoubtedly due to their large numbers. Competition between fish in a given school was so great, there were enough unwary fish to guarantee a strike, regardless of terminal tackle. Added to this, most recreational fishing was of an inshore nature, where water clarity was only fair to good.



Presenting a bait in the shadow of your boat may provide a hook-up when others are not catching.

In the 70s, Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing for school fish declined, basically for reasons of purse seining. However, the foreign market for giant tuna developed and the fisheries for these larger, valuable fish took hold.

With this fishery, the story unfolds. For awhile, heavy cable leaders, oversize hooks and white dacron line catch fish. A few years go by, single strand SS, coffee colored wire and Magic Marker-darkened terminal dacron catches. The fishery's stock is now suspected to be in decline, ICCAT presents recommendations and the NMFS commences ABT regulations.

With fewer fish, terminal tackle and techniques quickly advance, as fish prices continue to climb. Chumming, leaders change from wire to mono, hook tied directly. Braided cable and #18 wire are much less popular today. With line, what little dacron is in use is black in color. Mono is the choice, with clear, light green or light blue the favorite. In fact, there has been a definite trend away from heavy (pound test) to the smaller diameter, lighter mono. No doubt the angling community has come to recognize the excellent visual acuity in the tunas. Many of those who chase the giants will readily tell you they prefer the lighter lines. Getting a bite and having a fish on, although with a chance of "popping it off," is a lot better than getting no bite at all.

In talking with Al Conti, at Snug Harbor Marina in Rhode Island, he has frequently described not only the trend to lighter line, but also smaller hooks. "We sell a lot of large, fresh hook baits, like butterfish. But it's awfully hard to hide a 12/0 Mustad in one. A few years back, Mustad was it. Today, Eagle Claw and Gamakatsu are very popular also. Smaller yes, but very strong."

In the troll fisheries, with daisy chains of mackerel and rubber squids, there has also been a trend toward somewhat lighter terminal gear, as proven by success on days with calm seas, clear skies and bright sun overhead. Make no mistake, those on the grounds at first light, employing appropriate tackle and technique, enjoy the greatest success. "Dim light is an ally to those who seek the tunas."

"Hey, captain what's this 'in the shadow' thing you mentioned?"

"Okay, imagine if you will, with the Prowler at anchor, measuring 35' x 12', with the sun climbing toward its zenith, a shadow area of similar dimensions extending into the darkening depths beneath the boat. Perhaps you may recall walking into a darkened movie theatre from the bright light of the street? Or searching for a pair of black shoes at the bottom of a darkened closet. In either case, it created a problem: that of seeing clearly.

"Today, we began to mark fish around 9AM swimming at levels of 65 to 75 feet down. With that information, we made an adjustment to our baits. Lines were fished directly off the rod tips, on the uptide side of the boat. Carefully, measured, the weighted lines fished at those depths, with the hook bait hopefully 'in the shadow' of the boat. It's my opinion that a bait presented in the upper levels of the water column, under conditions of high light intensity, will elicit only few strikes. Hide the bait in the shadow and leader is more difficult to see. Fish swimming up into the current see the bait first, with weight and leader uptide. With baits set in this manner, I believe the chance of a strike is much better."

"Okay, I get the idea; but what's the story with the spray paint?"

"Simple. On stage, in front of a black drop back, many a magician has been able to fool an audience, if the color of his equipment matches that of the curtain. I'm sure the principle is the same with tuna. At depths, looking ahead at a given level, the background is dark. Spray painting the sinkers flat black in color probably results in their blending into the background, making them harder to see."

With the giant bluefin secure in the cockpit, following wiping down of equipment and coiling of anchor line, chain, anchor and ball into the fish tote on deck, the discussion again turns to tuna vision.

"I've had the chance to spend some time in the stacks at the Pell Library, URI Bay Campus, and the literature supports my contention that members of the tuna family are highly visual predators. Late season, nighttime chumming in the Canyons is a good example. Low level light intensity, excellent water clarity, appropriate water temperatures, are all factors involved in the success of this fishery."

Water Clarity: "You spend as much time on the ocean surface as I do, and you come to realize that the various tunas appear to constantly cruise in large schools, in the upper layers of the water column, in search of prey such as squid, mackerel, sand eels, etc. These fish rely on vision in prey detection, under normal circumstances."

"In the ocean water medium, visibility is restricted, with scattering and absorption of light. Research indicates that tunas can see objects only over a few tens of meters. My casual observations indicate that various members of the tuna family have distinct preferences for water clarity."

"For example, on the offshore grounds in the summer, following a cold front and wind, water temperatures will fall. If mixing of the surface is great enough, water clarity diminishes. The sea surface temperature may be within range, but there is only little chance you'll find fish in murky water."

"On the other hand, late summer and early fall will find Atlantic bonito and false albacore just outside the surf zone, harassing schools of sand eels and silversides, etc. With algae bloom and sediment mixing, turbidity is high."

"Yellowfin tuna and albacore, on the other hand, will only usually be found in those waters whose clarity provides them an advantage, perhaps that of a decaying warm core eddy encroaching coastal areas."

So, if you're looking to get into the offshore game for various tunas, I hope this two part article has got you thinking. Perhaps you've considered yourself knowledgeable, and I've helped you improve your chances of evening up the score.

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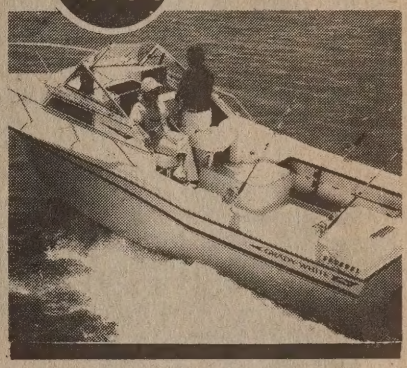

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A BASIC GUIDE TO SMOKING FISH

by Gary Gresh

While most fishermen have seen, eaten, or at least heard of smoked fish, only a relative few have ever attempted to smoke fish themselves. While many anglers believe that large smokehouses, a great deal of time and effort and access to some mysterious "forbidden knowledge" is involved, nothing could be farther from the truth. Home smoking of fish is easy and takes little time, space or investment.

Smoking has traditionally been associated with whiting or mackerel. However, most fish take well to smoking and provide the angler with a gourmet change of pace.

You do not need anything elaborate to smoke fish. Homemade smokers may be constructed from trash cans, 55 gallon drums, or old refrigerators. I use a two-rack smoker made by the Brinkmann's Company. It takes up less room than a large charcoal grill. My smoker is charcoal-fired. Electric and alcohol fueled smokers are also on the market. All are reasonably priced. You could pick one like mine up, on sale, for about $40 or $45. They make great gifts for the serious outdoorsman and/or gourmet.

Other than smoking fish, smokers can be used to smoke meat, wild game, shellfish, cheese and vegetables. Mine can also be used in the same manner as a conventional charcoal grill.

To use mine, all that's required is charcoal, lighter fluid and some wood

A catch of blues like this will give you an ample supply of fillets for your smoker.

chunks. Electric ones need only wood chips.

The fish themselves require very little special preparation for the smoker. I just gut them and cut the heads off. Make certain that you clean all the blood out of the body cavity or fish will have a strong taste. It's not necessary to scale or fillet them although larger fish will take up much less space if they are filleted or steaked. After cleaning the fish, I soak them overnight in a plastic bucket with the following mixture (this mixture is not etched in stone. It varies from person to person): 1 gallon water, 1⅔ cup Kosher salt and 1/3 cup sugar.

After soaking the fish overnight in the mixture, rinse them well and place the fish on racks to dry thoroughly for at least 1/2 hour before placing them in the smoker. Some folks direct a fan at them to speed up the drying process. The drier they are when the smoking begins, the better. The following directions are for use with a charcoal-fired smoker.

Fill the water pan in the smoker about 3/4 full. You can add wine or herbs (tarragon is a good choice) to the water if you wish. Feel free to experiment. That's one of the advantages of home smoking. Then I fill the charcoal pan at the bottom of the smoker and get a fire started.

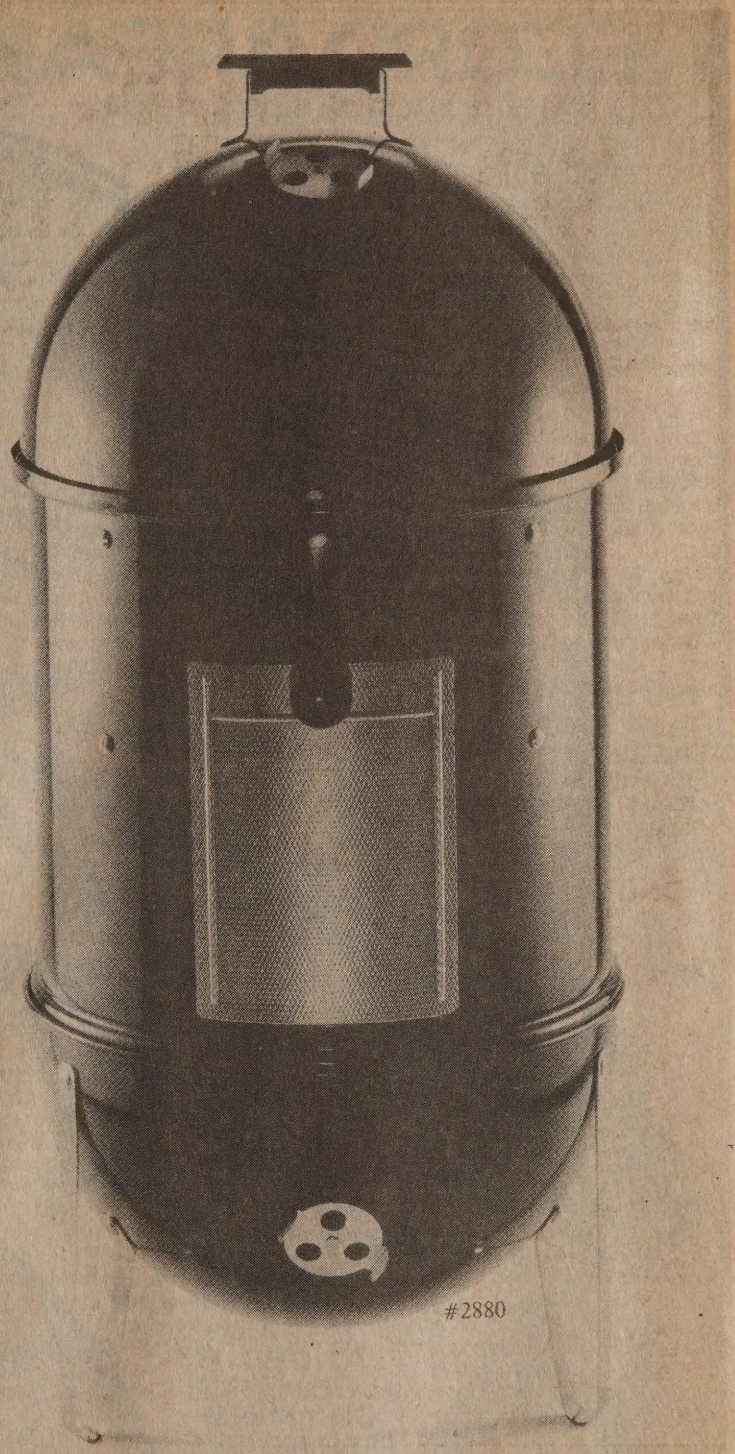
When the flames have died down you can put the fish on the racks on the smoker. Oil or spray the racks first so the fish will not stick to the racks. Keep a little space between each fish or they will stick together.

While starting the fire I soak three or four hickory wood chunks in water for 1/2 hour. I place them in the coals at the same time that I put the fish on the racks. Many other different types of wood may be used for smoking, including apple, mesquite and cherry. Try them with different varieties of fish and see which you find to your liking. Basically, most hardwoods besides oak are good for smoking. Avoid resinous woods like pine, cedar, fir and spruce. Mesquite flavor seems to go better with meat than fish.

Smoke fish for about 4 hours. Fish should be golden brown and firm to the touch. I have found that overcooking is not much of a problem. When done, place the fish in a refrigerator between sheets of waxed paper. Keep them separate from one another or they will stick together.

I have smoked whiting, mackerel, bluefish, sea trout, sea bass and puppy drum in this manner and each has been an unqualified success. This is a good way to prepare mackerel if you and your family don't care for them baked or broiled. Rather than frantically attempting to give most of your mackerel away, you can smoke a couple of dozen and enjoy some good eating.

Whiting are a very popular smoked fish. They are excellent when smoked and their smallish size will enable you to smoke a good number of them at once.



A big smoker like this Weber will allow you to prepare a large quantity of fish.

Bluefish are superb when smoked and I'm very surprised that more people do not smoke them. If you have great big blues, simply smoke the fillets.

Many other varieties of fish take well to smoking. They include freshwater trout (often served as appetizers in fancy restaurants), carp, suckers, eel (a European favorite), herring and shark. I have heard that sea robins are also very good when smoked. Oily fish are usually considered the best candidates for smoking, but the leaner fish that I have smoked (sea trout, sea bass, drum) were all excellent eating. I look forward to smoking some different varieties of fish in the coming year.

As you can see, smoking fish is neither time consuming, complicated or expensive. Rather, it is the exact opposite. Give it a try sometime soon. If you want, chip in with your regular fishing buddies and buy a smoker. I guarantee that you won't be disappointed by the final results.

RECORD BREAKERS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 7 LB. 9 OZ. LAKE WHITEFISH IS THE NEW NEW YORK STATE RECORD FOR THESE DEEP WATER FISH, FAVORITES OF ICE FISHERMEN. IT WAS PULLED OUT OF KEUKA LAKE BY JAMES W. WHEATON OF ELMIRA, N.Y.

A 60 LB ALBACORE TUNA WAS A 1 ST PLACE WINNER IN THE NEW JERSEY SKILLFUL ANGLER PROGRAM AND WAS BOATED BY PAUL SLEPH OF MIDDLE SEX WHILE FISHING THE HUDSON CANYON USING BUTTER-FISH BAIT.

A 52 LB. ATLANTIC WOLFFISH IS THE NEW IGFA ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD FOR THIS SPECIES CAUGHT BY FREDERICK GARDINER AT GEORGES BANK, MASS. I RECEIVED MANY CONGRATULATIONS FOR THIS CATCH, BUT PLEASE BE ADVISED THE HONORS GO TO ANOTHER FISHER-MAN...

...WITH A SIMILAR NAME!

A 4 LB. 7 OZ. AMERICAN EEL IS THE NEW ALL TACKLE WORLD RECORD FOR THESE SERPENTINE FISH. IT WAS TAKEN FROM LAKE RONKONKOMA, LONG ISLAND BY WILLIAM C. CUMMINGS.

A 30 LB. 2 OZ. MUSKELLUNGE WAS A WINNER IN THE IGFA ANNUAL FISHING CONTEST AND WAS LANDED BY LEONARD CUMMINS FISHING THE KINZUA DAM, PENNSYLVANIA.

A 15 LB. 8 OZ. BLUEFISH IS THE NEW IGFA WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD FOR CHOPPERS ON 4 LB. TEST LINE. TAKEN BY LINDA ST. GEORGE FISHING THE NORWALK ISLANDS OFF CONN.

East End REPORT

with Mrs. Lorry Mangan

Hot action continued all week, except for the windy weekend, with more bluefin tuna now mixed with yellowfin at Montauk and Shinnecock. Porgy catches increased dramatically on the weekend, with many jumbo size fish located on party and charter boats. Very good fluking continues at Montauk. Blues are thick from Shinnecock to Montauk and through Plum Gut.

MONTAUK

In order to get out of Sunday's "brisk" northwest winds, Capt. Dorzbacher of the **Little Bear** and Capt. Bird of the **Flying Cloud** tried Montauk's south side on their porgy trips, a serendipitous move, since great quantities of porgies, many very large, were waiting. Capt. Dorzbacher loaded up with buckets of really big fish, the "best catch of the year." Capt. Bird stated that the 46 porgies caught by William Ward had to be contained in two 5 gallon buckets. Teddy Amenson won the pool with his 2¾ pound porgy!

Most customers renting boats from **Uihlein's Boat Rentals** are concentrating on the run of fluke at the North Rips and Shagwong, coming back loaded with 2 to 4 pound fluke, reporting only a few shorts. Peter and Jeanette Loeb, on their annual vacation, have stayed in the Lake, so far counting 56 flounder caught in three 4 hour trips. Plenty of snappers at all local docks. (Live snappers are prime fluke or tuna bait.)

Reservations are a must on the open boat **Lazybones.** Anglers have enjoyed a steady pick of fluke all week long on half day trips. On Wednesday, a nine pound doormat took the pool.

Several changes have been made to the printed **Viking** schedule. After this weekend, codfishing will continue on Fridays throughout September, since the action remains hot. This past Saturday, the legendary Charlie Kilbasi who is now 89 years old, caught 17 cod, including the 30 pound pool winner. Nomans Land porgy trips will begin at 3 a.m. on September 7th, a week earlier than originally scheduled. Special full day trips for doormat fluke have been added for Sunday and Monday, September 13th and 14th, leaving at 8 a.m.

Capt. Paul Forsberg reports bluefishing at a frenzied fall pace off Block Island, with fish now biting well at night with very large fish now in the catch. We received first hand reports of last week's **Viking** tuna trips. On Monday's trip, 13 tuna were caught, only three were under 100 pounds. Pool winner was caught by Matthew Toffe, with a 155 pound yellowfin, largest of three in his fish box. Others who caught tuna on that trip: Gus Yanakos, 125 pounds; Mike Kuhl, 75 pounds; Dom Lettiere, 130 pounds; Pete Steensen, 115 pounds; John Girolamo, 110 pounds. Many runoffs, some straightened hooks, many sore back reported. On Wednesday's trip in flat calm seas, Brian Mulholland reported a dozen tuna, top weight 150 pounds, for 30 anglers. A couple of tile fish were brought up by those willing to fish the 700 foot depths at the egde of Atlantis Canyon.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charter boat **Julie III,** loaded up with porgies, sea bass and some jumbo triggerfish on charters the past week, fishing at the Point and south side. Porgy counts ranged from 350 to 450 per charter group (fish to 3½ pounds), with up to 78 sea bass to 3 pounds reported. Enormous triggerfish of six and seven pounds were located on the porgy grounds. Charters for the week included groups arranged by Walter Ross, Frank Alemano and Mr. Jones.

Recently, John Wesley and his friends Rich, Teddy, George and Carl fished east of Block Island with Capt. Jack Passie on the charter boat **Windy.** The group fought six tuna and kept five ranging from 40 to 100 pounds, releasing the sixth.

Capt. Mike Albronda of the charter boat **Montauk,** said that tuna action remains excellent, with tuna caught on 13 consecutive trips between August 9th and August 21st. On the weekend, very rough seas inhibited the catch on Saturday, while Sunday's trip was cancelled due to bad conditions. Best catch last week was on Monday, when a group arranged by Mr. Sharin fought 16 tuna ranging from 60 to 104 pounds in a 1½ hour time span. On Friday, Bob Youngblood used 40 pound test for his 134 pound yellowfin. The fight lasted 1½ hours. Capt. Mike is booking shark and tuna charters through October to take advantage of super fall fishing.

At **Star Island Yacht Club,** Chuck Cogswell spoke of great tuna action all week until bad winds kept most boats tied to the dock on the weekend. On boat, the "Philly D" made the trip to the Block Island tuna grounds on Saturday, reporting instant action with 4 yellowfin up to 125 pounds boated. However, as the seas worsened, the boat had to head in to Block Island. It remained there overnight, since sea conditions were too treacherous to get back to Montauk. On Thursday, Capt. Doug Calbath put 4 yellowfin to 125 pounds, a 130 pound bluefin, and a 70 pound mako into the fishbox on the marina based boat "Swiss Bank," with Marty Turchin handling angling chores. Marina owner Sam Gershowitz, with Capt. C.W. Simmons and Capt. Harry Clemenz and a couple of friends decided to head the 63 foot Ocean Yacht to the Atlantis Canyon for an overnight trip on Thursday. The group boated a dolphin and encountered a 90 pound wahoo. When the wahoo was boated, the value of wearing shoes (or boots) was emphatically proved when the toothy fish decided to vent his anger and clamped down on the big toe of one of the anglers who was barefoot (and will remain anonymous).

Capt. Mike Bentivegna, Jr. and Capt. Paul Lahullier reported red hot tuna action on **Pronto** charters this past week, with four or more yellowfin tuna caught on most trips. Bluefin made an appearance later in the week. Charter groups for the week included Bill Lemonie, Jim Toal, Ramona Snyzstrup and Paul Ohsberg. On Friday, Frank Romano, the winner of a raffle at the N.Y. City Boat Show encountered many run-offs and boated a 90 pound yellowfin.

Capt. Ron Aaronson, speaking for **Tuma's Dock and Tackle** related that tuna action remains excellent, with more bluefin in the catch the past week. Inshore, fluking remains very good at the North Rips; blues and bass are thick at Shagwong.

A blue marlin weighing 510 pounds on the scale at the **Montauk Marine Basin** was caught during the week by Pete Fisher on an overnight trip at the Hudson Canyon on the "Nora John." Plenty of tuna were brought in during the week, mostly yellowfin. No shark reports, since no one is sharking because of the tuna blitz.

TJ reported on the activities of three charter boats based at **Gone Fishing Marina:** Capt. Bill Ricca of the **Alyssa Ann** enjoyed good action with tuna all week, with the best action in the worst winds on Saturday, when three bluefin over 100 pounds plus some yellowfin were caught by a charter with Frank Pawlick, Mark Stevens and friends.

Capt. Paul Giangreco of the charter boat **Fisherman II** did well with yellowfin on three trips during the week, returning with from three to five tuna, top weight 140 pounds. Tuna charters include trips with Charlie Poulos, Tony Zamit and Dr. Mike Zinner. Action switched to fluke on the weekend, with a dozen to 7 pounds caught on a half day trip Saturday with Sam Rousso; 14 fluke went into the box on Sunday the largest, 10¾ pounds caught by Charlie Chuohman who was fishing with Dave Carrubba and Jay Ernst.

Friday night's trip with Jay and Joe Russo and friends saw 5 trophy size stripers pulleds aboard the **Caprice.** Capt. Bob Storc used live eels fishing the Race. On Saturday, fishing south of Block Island with Dick Schuetz and his family, several yellowfin to 80 pounds were boated.

Anglers on the charter boat **Louise** enjoyed fine action with yellowfin ranging to 140 pounds during the week. The week's count includes Bill Breck with 4 tuna on Monday; Joe Louzzo with 3 yellowfin and a bluefin

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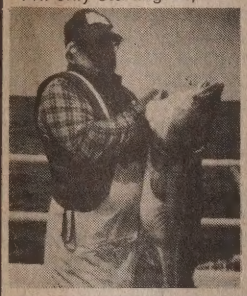

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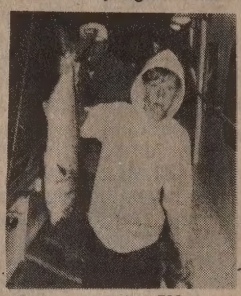

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on Tuesday and the Randy party with 7 tuna on Friday. Wednesday's charter opted for fluke, filling the fishbox with fluke to 6 pounds fishing the North Rips.

The "Jo-Lynn," based at **Gone Fishing Marina** enjoyed a good tuna trip last Wednesday, a trip that separated the men from the boys. Thirteen year old Kevin O'Brian proved his worth when he handled the angling duties on yellowfin tuna that weighed 120 and 157 pounds, fish that can bring grown men to their knees! In other action, TJ reports very good fluking at North Rips, not much reported yet from the south side. Plenty of blues around, near the Point, at Cartwright and close in tuna grounds. No shark reports, but not many have tried since the tuna came in. Several recent reports seem to indicate that porgy action is on the upswing.

SOUTH FORK

Capt. Artie Lach reports excellent porgy fishing on the **Wilhelric II,** fishing at New London. On Friday, Phyllis, a member of the Lady Reelers Fishing Club counted 65 porgies in her bucket. These are big porgies! Anglers on the **Wilhelric II** enjoyed fluking "like it used to be" for three consecutive days last week, averaging 90 keepers per trip on the boat. This reporter boarded the boat for Wednesday's three hour trip to Montauk to get a piece of this action. I personally counted all the fish on the boat: 90 fluke from 2 to 4 pounds, 24 sea bass 3/4 to 2½ pounds and a couple of blues. A five pound blue caught by Don Rooney won the pool. I even managed to catch 10 fluke, 5 of which were keepers, on the new **Al Feather's** fluke rig baited with squid and spearing.

The **Wilhelric II** will be docked in Montauk on September 8th and 9th in order to fish for full day doormat fluke along Montauk's south side, a one hour trip from Montauk. The fare will be $30; reservation and a deposit is required. Call Capt. Lach at (516) 728-2679 to make reservations. If there is enough response to these special trips, they will continue through September. Capt. Lach recommends that those planning to make these trips should bring spearing and sandeels, since they are getting harder to find on the east end.

Over at **Bayview Marine and Tackle,** a few more porgies were seen by anglers fishing at Cedar Point, but most marina based boats were concentrating on big blues in Plum Gut. Big catches of blues were reported, some as large as 15 pounsd. Since local fluking is very slow, some anglers tried drifting off the Ruins at Gardiners, finding a few keepers, but mostly shorts. Locally, tons of snappers entertain kids at Long Wharf Pier. Plenty of blue claw crabs in Georgica Pond.

Plenty of action with tuna at the

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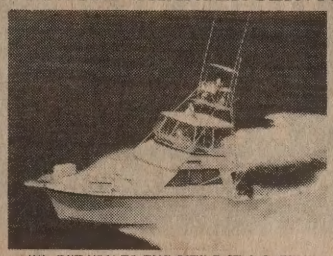

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Michael and Jacques Depardieu with yellowfins of 47 and 45 lbs. trolled 18 miles southeast of Moriches Inlet on birds and green machines. Subscriber photo.

Shinnecock tuna grounds, with the "Sandra D" reporting many encounters with tuna and a few yellowfin boated during the past week. Last Wednesday, Thom Speckenbach joined Bob Tangolics on the "Misty Blue" and returned with an 80 pound bluefin and had three other runoffs. A small dusky shark which hung out in the slick managed to get snagged on a tuna hook. It was released. In other action at **Speck's Bait and Tackle,** customers report plenty of bluefish at Shinnecock Inlet. Best fluke catches were reported from inlet areas, along with triggerfish. Porgies are still reported from Heady Creek, although a tad slower than the past couple of weeks.

Not much offshore action to report from **Sherry and Joe Corr's Best Boatworks** on the weekend, since stiff winds kept most boats tied to the dock. However, on Wednesday, Dominick and Ralph Paturno, with Tom D'Ambrio fished the Shinnecock tuna hole on the "Alma D." The group returned with yellowfins weighing 130, 90, 75 and 45 pounds. Larry Luce took his 80 year old grandfather and Steven Connelly to the same area on "Capt. Roy's Toy," returning with a 70 pound bluefin.

Capt. Ron Woodward of the charter boat **Goshawk,** sharking out of Moriches with Jerry Gladston, Larry Levy and Steven Beirne, decided to set up a chum slick 4 miles southeast of the Inlet because of rough seas on Saturday. The group boated a 70 pound mako, plus several blues in the 12 to 15 pound range along with a bonito.

Not much action from **Mariner's Cove Marina** on the weekend because of the high winds, however Marty did manage two tuna on the "Pocket Rocket" on Saturday. Blues were thick at the inlet on Sunday, from the inlet to the Sea Buoy, and traveling east.

Hank at **Altenkirch and Sons** reported very good action all last week with yellowfin and bluefin tuna 11 miles off Shinnecock Inlet. While action was slow on Sunday, a late bite seemed to be starteing as we were talking on the phone about 5 p.m., since several tuna hunters had runoffs during our conversation (according to radio chatter). Shinnecock Inlet was loaded with blues, both inside and out to the Sea Buoy. Those bait fishing from the jetty were connecting with both blackfish and triggerfish. Hank reported fluke catches as "fair." Great catches of blue claw crabs are reported in the Shinnecock Canal and Mecox Bay.

Yellowfin tuna appear to be thinning out at the Shinnecock tuna grounds, but are replaced with lots of bluefins, according to Lanny Molnar at **Molnar's Landing.** Capt. Richard Barunstein, aborted a canyon trip because of rough seas and connected with 4 bluefins ranging to 95 pounds on "Fishtales." On Wednesday, Don Stimpson and his wife Sue boated tow bluefin, with Sue handling the rod on the tuna, one of which weighed 95 pounds. Last Monday, Joe Manerino and his son, Joe Jr. got a late start and decided to start sharking on their 20 foot Grady-White in 110 feet of water. They returned in short order with a 310 pound mako! Inshore, blues were stacked up at the inlet on Sunday. Ed Brock returned with a well full of fluke to 4 pounds on Thursday, reportedly caught at the Inlet. Lanny and his wife Lynn caught stripers of 18 and 22 pounds along with loads of shorts. Snappers, now 6 to 7 inches long, can be caught off all docks and piers in the area, as well as blue claw crabs. Some of the crabs are huge, one customer brought in some that weighed 1.7 pounds—cooked!

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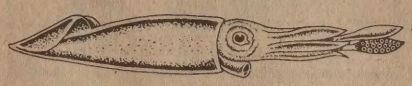

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South Shore REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Stiff winds put a damper on the weekend fishing scene in this area. During the week, tuna continued to be taken just a short ride from the beach with most Fire Island boats finding a pick of fish on inshore wrecks like the Linda, Yankee and Oregon. Moriches boatmen rode southeast where they found solid action with yellowfins and bluefins all week long.

Inshore, the fluke picture has changed little inside the bays with short fish continuing to dominate the action. On the positive side, some very good catches of larger fluke were made outside Fire Island Inlet on the ocean reef this week. Both flounder and sea bass are showing signs of coming on in Great South Bay which should help pick up some of the slack from the fluking. Snappers in peak form in both areas and some very good crabbing as well.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Capt. Tony Rizzo of the **Moriches** based charter boat **Nino** said that tuna fishing remains excellent with the boat hooking up every day this week. Tony has been fishing 45 minutes south of Moriches and all of the action has been chunking with most of the hookups coming on 50 pound line. On Wednesday, a party headed by Lou Avignon, from Drake's Cakes put away 3 bluefin tuna from 120 to 140 pounds. Two other fish were dropped after lengthy battles. On Saturday, Elyse Cohen whipped a 125 pound bluefin in a 1 hour stand-up battle under very rough sea conditions. According to Tony, Saturday's fishing was hot with lots of hook-ups but he was forced to return to the inlet due to heavy seas. He reminded that he still has a few weekday dates available.

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At **Silly Lily Fishing Station** in **East Moriches**, Gary Grunseich labelled it a tough weekend due to all of the wind. There were some encouraging fluke signs during the week with a couple of boats returning with 12 to 15 keepers. Still, the average has been 1 keeper to every 6 or 8 shorts. Best action has been on the incoming tide between buoys 38 thru 41. Gary added that this week will have good morning tides. It was a slow week on the flounder but the cool nights were are currently experiencing should help pick up this fishing. Lots of cocktail blues continue to roam the bay, there are plenty of snappers and good crabbing in the coves.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**, Paul Graniello reported both snappers and crabs holding up well at all local docks. Fluking, which had shown signs of improving, declined again with shorts making up nearly all of the action. Moriches Inlet continues to host a sizable population of stripers. Once again, a fluke angler encountered a surprise showing of stripers. On Friday, Jerry Ingordo was drifting live killies at the inlet when not one, but four stripers interrupted his peaceful drifting. Two of the fish fell below the 33" minimum but a pair of the fish were in the 18 pound range. He kept one and returned the other. All four were taken on live killies. Moriches Inlet also continues to play host to some big blues and weakfish. All three species are being taken on bunker chunks fished deep with 3 and 4 ounce drails. The last tuna reports filtered in back on Wednesday and concerned bluefins and yellowfins being chunked south of Shinnecock.

Audrey Canale at **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** said that snapper fishing and crabbing remains good in Great River and at the West Sayville Dock. The latter spot has also been producing a few fluke including some keepers in the early AM. The fluke picture on the bay varies but continues to be dominated by shorts. Two catches reported by customers this week included 20 fish—0 keepers, while another pair of anglers totaled 50 fluke of which 10 were keepers. Carol Amoroso connected with her first tuna. Fishing aboard the family boat 'Carol Ann' she whipped a 50 pound yellowfin which hit a trolled J&R Custom Tuna Rig. It was taken in 160' of water south of Shinnecock.

At **Islander Canvas Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**, John Albanese reported a generally quiet week with plenty of wind keeping weekend activity down. He did know of blackfish and sea bass to 4 pounds taken on the Kismet Reef this week. Also some fair catches of flounder made at the Sore Thumb. Bay fluke fishing continues to be spelled s-h-o-r-t-s with a much better keeper ratio on the outside near the Ocean Reef. On Friday Dwayne Koncellik took his 'No Bones' to the Ocean Reef. He found 8 keepers to 5½ pounds on spearing and squid combos. Some nice weakfish being livelined on snappers and bunker near the Wreck Buoy and the Old Construction Dock.

Jim Romano at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip** filed a similar fluke report. Shorts in the bay but some nice fish being taken off the Fire Island Ocean Reef. Some sea bass now mixed with short fluke west of the bridge on squid and killies. Several customers reported taking big weakfish at the Construction Dock on live bunker and snappers. For the offshore set, Jimmy Flora ran to 130' of water southwest of the inlet on Wednesday. Chunking for tuna, the crew did nothing until they decided to tangle with some bluefish on 20 lb. gear. To make a long story short, a 68 pound yellowfin gobbled a butterfish bait and was subdued after a lengthy battle.

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Capt. Neil Delanoy of the **Bay Shore** open boat **Laura Lee** said that fluking was okay on the last of the flood and the first of the Ebb this week. The two best days of the week were Tuesday with 90 keepers and Sunday with 60 keepers. The skipper has been working West Channel, Snake Hill Channel, the Inlet and the State Boat Channel. Sea bass are now mixed with the fluke in most locations.

From **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** in **Bay Shore** Carl Miller reported a quiet week with short fluke making up most of the bay action. Some decent fish being taken on the Ocean Reef however. Weakfish from 7 to 12 pounds being taken on live snappers, bunker and small blackfish. Offshore fishing was hampered by lots of wind on the weekend..

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Scotty 3** said that bluefishing was excellent through Thursday south of Patchogue and Moriches. Since then, lots of wind has hampered the fishing. Fluke fishing has been fair in the inlet area with 6 to 40 keepers a trip. Sunday's pool was taken by a 4½ pound flattie.

Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait and Tackle** reported that several nice fluke in the 5-7 pound range were taken on the Fire Island Ocean Reef this week. Bluefishing was very good day and night through most of the week but slowed in recent days with rough seas being a factor. On Thursday, Stu Goldberg, Frank Mattera and Jack Fernandez worked east of the Oregon where they put away yellowfin

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tuna of 142, 95 and 48 pounds. Snapper fishing super outside the shop on Fishermans Walk.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** said that weekend fishing was made very difficult by strong winds. Half day fluke trips continue to produce from 15 to 40 keepers depending on the tide but shorts continue to dominate. Friday's PM trip saw 5-year-old John David take the pool with a 3.11 pounder. Sunday's special ocean fluke trip suffered from poor drifting conditions, the result of 30 mph winds which blew most of the day. Despite these conditions, over 50 keepers were taken. Fourteen year old Jason Tice took the pool with a 6.11 pounder. Sal Scelso had a 5.7 pounder. Twenty other fluke fell into the 3-4 pound class. Some sea bass to 4 pounds and bluefish to 10 pounds helped spice the action. Night bluefishing was good all week with the exception of Friday which provided a slow pick. Saturday's trip was cut very short due to rough sea conditions.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Captree** open boat **Speedy VIII** said that daytime bluefishing slowed over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The fishing had been good 1-1½ miles off the beach south of Smith Point Park but strong winds and rough seas curtailed the action. Night bluefishing was good during the week but slow on Friday and Sunday. Saturday was just "too rough". Worth noting however, was the Speedy VIII chose to go west Sunday night and did an excellent job on the choppers at Cholera. Speedy also reported that tuna of 60 and 35 pounds were taken aboard the Speedy VIII during the week. They were mixed with the blues and fell for diamond jigs. A few albacore and bonito showed in catches over the weekend.

Capt. Andy Buglione of the **Captree** charter boat **Cap'n Andy** fished offshore with a party headed by Dan Barone on Wednesday. They counted for a 70 pound mako along with a small dolphin. Saturday afternoon saw a 4 hour trip for Hyung Lee and his party of 12 account for a couple hundred porgies and sea bass inside wrecks and reefs.

Capt. Carl Passaro of the open boat **Miss Captree** updated his partial report from last Monday which he had relayed over the VHF radio. His first special doormat fluke trip on Monday finished up with 97 keeper fluke and over 100 sea bass to 2½ pounds. Most of the fluke were between 2 and 4 pounds with a good number of 5 and 6 pound fish mixed in. Sonny Angelica had 6 nice fish including a 6.13 pound pool winner. On Tuesday, under ideal conditions, 146 keepers came over the rail along with a good mix of sea bass, ling and bluefish. Most of the fluke were again in the 2-4 pound class but the pool was taken by a 7.2 pound doormat. The largest sea bass taken on Tuesday checked in at a hefty 4 pounds.

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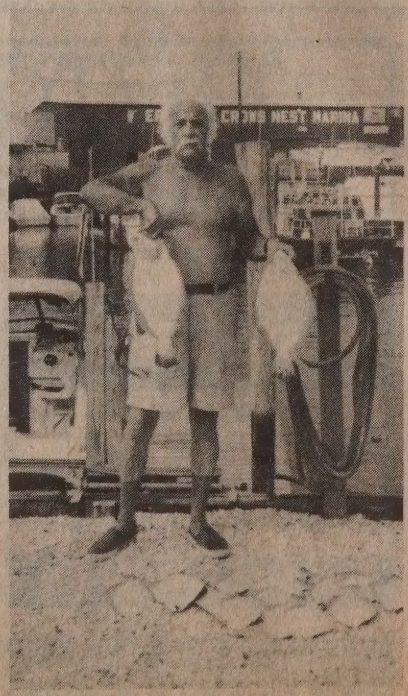

Lewis Thorner holds 2 of 15 keeper fluke that he and Ellen Haber caught off Riis Park aboard his boat, Jupiter, on July 11th.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, John Gattuso said that Saturday and Sunday's winds made for a quiet weekend. Prior to the blow, Pete Nowinski put a 75 pound yellowfin aboard his 'Miss Ellie'. This was on Friday. On Thursday, Capt. Ed Torkidsen of the BCA charter boat **Tork I** found a pair of small makos to 75 pounds for Bob Jacobsen and Ron Dieumegard. Bob Jacobsen, Sr. accounted for a 47 pound yellowfin which was trolled near the Linda. Both makos were taken just south of the Oregon. Wayne Dieumegard and a friend, Cheryl rounded out the crew. John mentioned that the fluking remains mostly all shorts but noted the better fishing taking place outside the inlet. He also said that snapper fishing remains good at the Babylon Village Dock.

"If you're looking for fluke to take home, you should plan on fishing outside the inlet" according to Mike Andreani at **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle**. The Ocean Reef was particularly productive this week. A few bass and weakfish being livelined by sharpies along South Beach. Bunker and snappers working in the daytime, live eels and baby blackfish working well after dark. Snapper fishing continues good and crabbing in fine shape for those working the flats and the abutments around the Captree Bridge. Crabbing on the docks has slowed.

Penny Schaefer at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** in **Lindenhurst** reported a 79 pound yellowfin for Eddie Coffin on Friday. The fish was taken near the Linda on a Green Machine. Shark fishing remains a pretty good bet from the 20 Fathom line on out in a southeasterly direction. Tuna are in the same area but the fishing has not been consistent. Some spotty bluefish action this week with fishing slow near the end of the week but good east of Patchogue and at Cholera early in the week. Small schools of cocktail blues continue to roam the bay and inlet and sinker bouncers continue to pick away at flounder in 20 to 25 feet of water behind the Sore Thumb. Plenty of snappers all over the place and jacking for crabs good during the night near the Captree Bridge.

From **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in **Amity Harbor**, Bob Vitale told about 15 year old Adam Matysiak who put away his first pair of yellowfin tuna on Thursday while chunking over the Linda. The youngster accounted for two 50 pounders aboard the private boat 'Tin Man II' on Thursday. Saturday and Sunday were blown out for most offshore anglers. Fluking continues to revolve around shorts but there are some bigger fish to be had on the outside. Snapper fishing in great shape now locally and crabbing remains pretty good.

From **Edelman's** in **Farmingdale**, Frank Pristera reported that Bruce Hastings and Tom Bowen livelined a pair of weaks to 9 pounds at the inlet on Friday. Fluking was labeled as poor at the inlet over the weekend

based on those Frank spoke to and first hand experience. Frank did dirty his fish box on Friday however when he put Richard Moulton into a 54 pound yellowfin aboard the 'Cookie Monster'. The fish was taken on a Green Machine and bird combo. Same day, Scotty Molnar chose to chunk near the remains of the Linda. He was rewarded with a hefty 154 pound yellowfin. The 'Traveler' also worked the Linda on Friday. It's crew chunked two yellowfins and trolled one. Frank added that he printed lots of tuna at the 80' mark on Friday. The weekend was a blowout on the offshore grounds.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

As we approach the end of August, there's still enough happening inshore and offshore to keep most anglers busy. Bluefishing has to be listed as number one in productivity. Inshore and offshore wrecks are starting to come alive with blacks and sea bass. Offshore tuna action has so far been just fair but signs are in evidence this week of an upswing due very shortly, with a lot of tuna sighted as close as 15 miles off the beach. Inside fluking remains picky on keepers with a decent scattering of deep water flounder, pin bass and blackfish. Snappers are in abundance and blue claws are around but not too plentiful. Just a few weakfish reports, not much to speak of.

WEST END BAYS/ JONES INLET

From **Wanser's Tackle** in **Seaford**, we learn of two Seaford school teachers, Hank Hannon and Big Moose Anderson with ten keeper fluke out of thirty total fish going to 4½ pounds plus seven big snappers in the Amityville Cut. Snappers in the area have been in full swing and they are larger now in all the creeks, channels and canals. Fluking activity has picked up slightly at Squaw Island, Black Banks and Goose Creek as to keeper ratios. Blues, weaks and bass are being taken at all the bridges on live or chunked bunker and live snapper. Good bluefishing baiting at Cholera this week and Lon heard of a lot of tuna being trolled or chunked at the Yankee Wreck. Fair BCCs in the Massapequa flats and a few flounder in the deeper holes.

Over in **Wantagh**, Mike at

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Albert Colban Jr. caught this 11 lb. blue off of Manhattan Beach on 7-13 on a popper. Subscriber photo.

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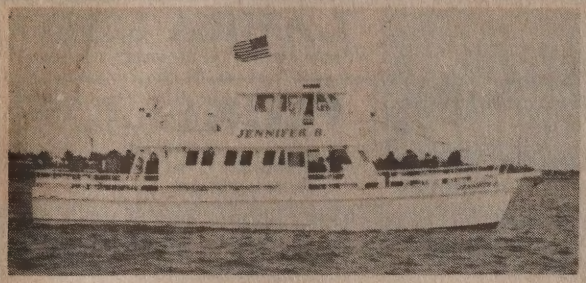

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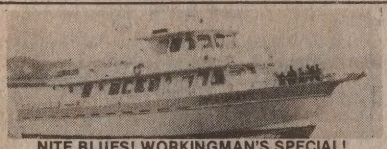

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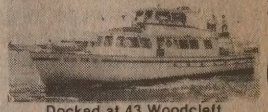

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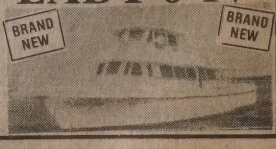

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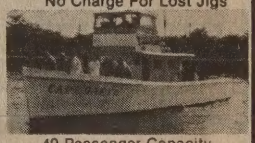

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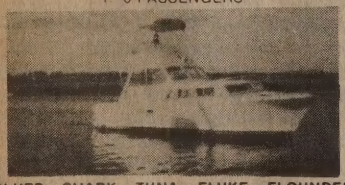

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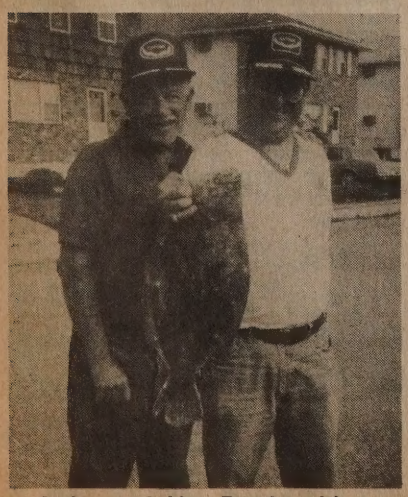

Arthur and Alan Brooks with a 4½ lb. fluke caught off Riis Park on 7-11 by the elder Brooks. Fish was weighed at Bay Park Fishing Station.

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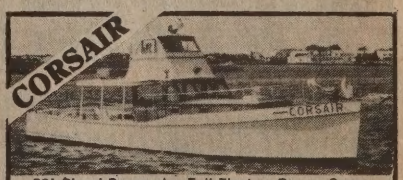

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Causeway Bait and Tackle said the fluking picture is pretty much the same as last week with plenty of midgets around and some keepers being taken on sandeels with the inlet working best all around the high. Some flounder in the hole off the Short Beach CG Station and from the Jones Beach Piers. Boats are getting roughly 20 flounder per boat on a good day. Incoming water is producing sea bass and porgies at the Wantagh Bridges. Good bluefish jigging and baiting from 60 to 100 feet of water southwest of Jones and mostly on bait at Cholera with some bonito mixed in. A few blue claws in the deeper spots.

Jimmy at **Merrick Tackle** knew firsthand of 4-6 pound blues being baited and jigged at Cholera along with a mixture of small sharks. Fluking on the outside has been about the only productive fluke game around and even then most fish have been throwbacks. Lots of snappers and sea robins around inside and good sea bassing on the inshore wrecks. Good hauls of blue claws off the Merrick Avenue Dock along with snappers. This is at the very southern-most end of Merrick Ave.

Gary at **Garan's Tackle** in **Merrick** reports fluking about the same with plenty of midgets but a few keepers for those not willing to give up. Jones Inlet has been about the best area all around the high. Blacks starting at the bridges on fiddlers and being excellent this past week at the T-Wreck. Night bluefishing remained excellent most trips and yellowfin tuna have been trolled south of the JI Buoy in the 15 pound class.

Sailing out of **Freeport** the **Lady J Fleet** enjoyed good bluefish trips Monday through Friday with things slowing down thereafter due to the strong winds and lumpy sea conditions. Capt. Pat called Sunday's effort, "okay", but only for the more skilled angler. Blues have been running 1-14 pounds, mostly on jigs. Fluke trips have been of the ocean variety with a little better on the keeper ratio. Trips were sailed this week for: Ulster D.D.S.O., Xerox, Property Asset Planning, Connecticut Mutual Life, Structure-Tone Inc., TWA Cargo, Frank Caprice group, Bill Laundries party, Bob King group, A. Best Contracting and Hellman Construction.

Capt. Jim of the **Super Spray II** called the night bluefish trips good and the day fluke trips he classified as "okay" with lots of shorts but definitely keeper fish around. Daily pools on the ½-day trips have been in the 3-plus pound category. Capt. Jim was happy to inform us that he has just brought up a 60' fiberglass charter boat, the **Dolphin**, which has a Coast Guard rated capacity of 75 passengers. Jim said the boat is presently going through the various C.G. and F.C.C. licensing and once thats out of the way, which should be by September 1st, the boat will be sailing and bailing fish all year long.

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passed the word on that he is now officially engaged to be married to the beautiful, blonde-haired Kathy Wana. The LIF Staff wishes them good luck and happiness!

A call from the **Blue Fin Fleet** told of somewhat of an upswing in the offshore fluke fishing along the beaches with fish to 4 pounds. Bagging fluke in the 3-4 pound range this week were: Sheila Novotizny, Maria Fernandez, Fred Dunker and Dave O'Halloran. Hihook of the week was 13 keepers for Carl Johnson of Brooklyn. Jack Berry had 10 keepers, with runner-ups Larry Felice and Dawn Chalivski. Live killies worked best and there were blues and sea bass mixed in. The two boats on Sunday had 43 and 37 keeper fluke respectively. Capt. Sy says that his first fall tuna trip is all sold out with the next one being September 8th, still having a few openings. See ad for details.

Bob at the **Freeport Boatmen's Association** told of lots of fluke action with some keepers being caught. Very good night blues at 17 and day blues at the BA, Ambrose and Cholera. It was Bob that said tuna have been sighted within 15 miles of the beach.

In nearby **Point Lookout**, Skipper Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** told of the spectacular bluefishing Monday south of Ambrose Tower with catches of from a barrel to a barrel and a half per man. However, said Al, the rest of the week was hot and cold. In Saturday's near hurricane winds, a few fish were caught but then the boat had to come back due to conditions. Sunday things bounced back somewhat with catches of ½ to a full bag a man. Mitch Losak had a 14 pound pool winner, followed up by Art Douglas of Levittown with his 12½ pounder.

On the charter boat **Freedom**, Tuesday's trip for the Bob Ditzen group from SKER Inc. had mucho blues at 17 on bait and chum. Wednesday's trip for Saul Schaeoff and pal culled out 15 keeper fluke at the Squaw Island Drain. Friday's trip for Dave Weiss and buddy saw blues jigged just outside Jones in the AM and in the PM the boogied over to Squaw Drain and picked out another 8 keeper fluke.

Aboard the two trip a day **Nighthawk**, Tuesday saw Harold Frederick of Long Beach with 7 keepers, Bill Murray with 4 keepers including a 3¼ pound pool fish while Tom Rupp bagged 8 keeper fluke. On Thursday, Bob Surprenant of RVC nailed 5 keepers. Capt. Steve said the morning tides work best this week in the back and on the flats with a better keeper ratio this week than last.

Aboard the charter boat **Marie III**, Tuesday's trip for the Tom Meaney group saw some good fluking with 50 keepers out of roughly 300 total fluke caught. On Wednesday, the Skip Hull group had some great catches of 3-5 pound blues on bait at Cholera, totaling over 500 blues caught. Thursday's PM trip again had super bluefishing at Cholera, fish 3-5 pounds. Good blue-

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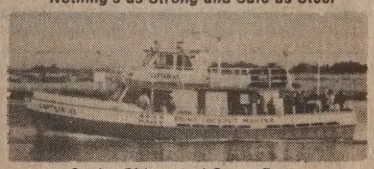

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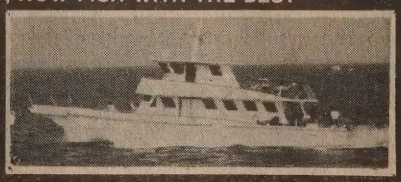

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Capt. Richie Kessinger's **Starstream II** continues to be catching bluefish day and night with the night trips producing somewhat bigger fish, mainly at 17 Fathoms. The skipper said that on the day trips fares have been working diamond jigs in 30 to 40 foot depths along the south shore beaches.

We hear from JR at **Sea Isle** that a few yellowfin and bluefin tuna along with some shark have been bending rods around the HA and Mud Hole areas. He noted that the Mud Hole has been having super clear water this past week with something near 50 foot visibility. Fluking has generally been on the slow side but with some keepers being caught inside and out. Good blackfish action at Cholera along with sea bass. An interesting note is that sea bass are being caught there on both fiddlers and on killies. Good striper and weakfish action at the bridges and there has even been a few keeper size bass caught during the week. Night bluefishermen have also been hooking into shark on these trips.

From **Lou's Fishing Station** located at the mouth of Woodcleft Canal, we learn that during the week bluefish action was very good just about all over the place but there was very little shark activity to be found. A few yellowfin tuna were taken around the Texas Tower. Fluking at inshore wrecks was good with fish weighed in up to 4-plus pounds. Two to four pound blues were jigged all along the beaches on Sunday. Lou weighed in a 9 pound 8 ounce weakfish taken at the Big M on live bunker. Flounder still being picked in the deeper holes and good sea bass action at Cholera.

Skipper Mike Danon of the **Capt. Lou Fleet** advised that his full day fluke boat has been working the ocean beaches taking fluke to 5 pounds with some blues mixed in. His two trip a day flounder boat has been getting some nice size flatties with a scattering of porgies, sea bass and a few keeper fluke mixed in. Mike also

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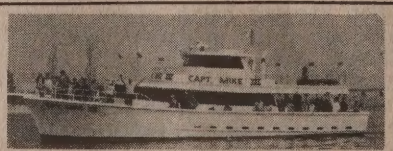

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fishing was had Saturday night in heavy seas at Cholera. Those who stayed at the rail nailed them. Sunday's trip for the Joe Daily group jigged blues off of Playland in the AM and fluke in the afternoon in the same area with a 30 percent keeper ratio.

Capt. Ron of the **Miss Point Lookout** tells us that the night bluefishing trips remain excellent, fish running 4 to 15 pounds most nights with high hook of the week in the 40s. The daytime fluke trips continue pretty much as before with plenty of action and enough keepers to make life interesting. This week there were 3 fluke caught that went over 5 pounds. Regular Alan bagged a 3 pounder, Artie Jenowitz a 4 pounder and Paul Muniz a 3 pounder. The skipper says that with the cooler weather coming, more of the bigger fluke should be moving off the flats.

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** told of some blues being caught all around the inlet on bunker and diamond jigs. He knew of yellowfin that were coming within 3 miles of the beach. Bluefishing strong at Cholera said Tom with plenty of fluke action inside and some keepers to boot. Blackfish starting at the bridges and lots of snappers around. He called the flounder action still good in Reynolds, Middle Bay, Swift Creek and at the Big M. Tom also told us that a couple of weeks ago a 135 pound bigeye obviously headed for the Point Lookout boardwalk, managed to beach himself in about 2 feet of water. Being hung up on a shoal, the fish was quite obviously thrashing around and creating a lot of noise and splashing. Three local anglers jumped into the water and wrestled him up onto the beach. Now that's one for the books!

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle** in **Lynbrook** told of Jack and Nora Ezagui of Lynbrook who on Tuesday had 7 flounder over 3 pounds (20 in all) along with a 4 pound fluke. Going back to the same spot, they had 15 more flounder Wednesday. The spot was Buoy 21, Shinnecock, at the new bridge on worms and clam chum. Blues all over the place outside the inlet said Charlie. Off Reis Park there is about a 10 percent keeper ratio on fluke. Plenty of snappers all over and through Friday fair yellowfin tuna action at the Mud Hole.

NEW YORK BIGHT

We hear from **Skippy's Tackle** in **East Rockaway** of a better fluke keeper ratio in Broad Channel, Jones, Debs and at the Tin Can. Super numbers of snappers locally said Skippy from ½-tide up to ½-tide down. Best blue claw action this week has been off the Woodmere Dock and plenty of stripers at the bridges for clam chummers with perhaps a keeper or two to be had. Flounder have slowed.

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** in **Howard Beach** says that in the local Jamaica Bay waters fluking has

taken a slide, with the very hungry fish choosing killie/squid combos. Also off both bridges has been a good bite of sand porgies on blood and sandworms on both moving tides along with lots of snappers. Three to five pound blues and a few 10 to 15 pounders have been hitting respectively chunks and whole live bunker. Just a few blue claw crabs in the area.

Over in **Sheepshead Bay**, Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Avatar** on Thursday fished the Tin Can for Sam Pierson and buddy bagging 40 keeper fluke to 4½ pounds. Friday's trip for two anglers resulted in over 100 blues taken on bait off Sea Bright, fish 3-6 pounds.

Capt. Tom of the **Elsie K III** called the fluke action consistent on a daily basis with the fish now schooling up with best action at Ambrose and the Highlands. Tom said he expects the best fluking of the season to be coming up within the next few weeks. He noted that at present, his new boat, the **Elsie K Princess** is under construction by the Lydia Boat Co. down in Florida. With the hull and superstructure completed, they are now doing the fiberglassing. The vessel will be turbo powered and will be ready for spring fishing next season. Tom said that surprisingly enough, his boat is least crowded on Saturday and Sunday, so there is plenty of room on the weekend.

We hear from Capt. Butch of the **Zephyr** that fluking has been good at the edges of the channels. In Saturday's wind, he fished Old Orchard and on Sunday, had mixed fish to 5 pounds again off the Jersey Coast. Nite bluefishing has been good at 17, Farms and Sea Bright. Saturday's terrible conditions made it too unsafe to fish but Butch said that once things settle down weatherwise, the bluefish should be eating the bottoms out of all the boats.

From the **America Fleet**, Capt. John spoke of the excellent night bluefishing on mixed fish 5 to 15 pounds. The day fluke trips were on the skimpy side with the exception of Thursday and Friday which saw good catches made. Saturday was weathered out for the most part and Sunday's catches were just so-so due to superfast drifting conditions. He expects the fluking to pick up again with calming weather. Highlight of the week was a 7 pound fluke caught on Capt. George's **America**.

Capt. Al Coley of the **Betty W IV** called the bluefishing Monday and Tuesday absolutely fabulous with fish 5 to 15 pounds at the Mud Buoy. The rest of the week was just fair he said due to moon tides, the northeaster and weather in general. Al said that his Tuesday and Thursday tuna trips are booking fast so call early if you want to hook these elephants. See ad for details.

The Wee Willie report from **Mike's Tackle** across from the fleet is that a jumbo fluke was caught in the Coney Island flats on spearing by Lou Kirchgessner, the fish going 10 pounds 12

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ounces on the scale, caught aboard the **White Eagle**. Joe Sayour bagged a 7 pound fluke on Capt. George's **America** fishing sandeels off Plum Beach while Cindy Darrell had a 6 pound 12 ounce fluke fishing on the **Pastime II** using sandeels at the Jetty. Blues good night and day said the Wee One with the nights having the edge at 17. Some porgies, sea bass and blacks at the local wrecks. Big blues at Norton's Point, Tin Can and Kingsboro on bunker or butters. A few weakfish in Jamaica Bay on sandworms. One party boat after tuna brought back 19 yellowfins up to 125 pounds.

North Shore REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Gusty winds over the weekend took a bite out of this week's reports, and prevented many would be anglers from sailing. For those who did get out, bluefish continued to grab the headlines from Matinnecock Point to Mattituck Inlet. Fishing for porgies remained steady in most areas while action with fluke slipped a notch.

WESTERN SOUND

Jack's Bait and Tackle in **City Island** reports excellent bluefishing

This 9.10 lb. doormat fluke was caught at the Marine Parkway Bridge on July 22nd. A squid/spearing combo did the trick. Photo courtesy of Charles Hairstylist.

with fish to 17 pounds taken on bunker chunks, live bunker and poppers fished in the vicinity of Throgs Neck Bridge, Port Washington Harbor and Steppingstone Lighthouse. Shop regular Sal "The King Lobster" also found a few fluke this week. In fact, he had 30 keepers to 9 pounds off of Barker Point. The party boat fleet has been cleaning up on porgies off Hucklebury Island.

At the **Glen Cove Sport Shop,** John told us that snappers are the fastest game in town. The fish are anywhere that turbulent water can be found, such as jetties, bulkheads, rocks and groins. Especially productive have been surface poppers fished ahead of a single tube or bait. Big blues continue to please anglers fishing near Matinnecock Point. Porgies have been hot off the sand flats east of Peacock Point but fluking has gotten a little picky.

A call to Capt. Pete of the **Klondike VIII** out of **New Rochelle,** revealed excellent jigging for bluefish all week long with the exception of Sunday when the wind made fishing a little tough. Most of the fish have been in the 3 to 12 pound class.

On the **Apache** out of **City Island,** Capt. Dom reports the fishing scene changed little since last week. Fares are still averaging 20 to 25 porgies a man with most fish in the 3/4 pound range. Over 20 fluke were included in Sunday's catch, many in the 5 to 6 pound class. Anglers have been experiencing the most luck with sandworms. The boat is still working off Smithtown Bay and Lloyd's Neck.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

Ilene at **Greenlawn Sport Shop,** called this week's bluefishing "excellent" with fish over 10 pounds feeding every night inside Huntington Harbor. Small porgies are in all the usual locations and snappers are growing larger by the day. One angler checked in a 5 pound blackfish taken off of Eaton's.

The same sentiments were echoed at **Bowman's Bait and Tackle** in **Northport.** Blues all over Northport Bay between the north side and the 5 mile per hour marker buoy. A lot of fish over ten pounds chasing bunker mornings and evenings. Porgies have been hot on both sides of Eaton's Neck while snappers have kept local youths busy at the docks. Fluking has been pretty consistent off the south side of Huntington Harbor, however, there have been a lot of throwbacks mixed in.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** in **Huntington** had pelnt of big blues to 20 pounds weighed in over the weekend. Most came from inside the harbor or just to the west. Largest blue of the season, 20 pounds, was checked in Sunday afternoon by Steve Stein who took the fish

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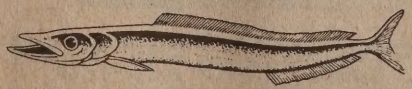

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Joel Cohen connected with this 48 lb. striper during a July 12th trip aboard the Orient Point based charter boat, "Nancy Ann."

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on a bunker dunked in Northport Harbor. Fluking has been excellent off Sand City and Eatons Neck south of the Coast Guard Station. Some fish to 7 pounds. Porgies can be had inside Northport Bay at buoys 4 to 6 and off Marshall's Field. Most are mediums but there are a few jumbos off Eatons.

Ralph at **Ralph's Fishing Station** in **Mount Sinai** knew that anglers were nailing bluefish to 14 pounds outside Mt. Sinai Inlet on Sunday despite the strong morning winds. His grandson, 11-year old Corey took a 19 pounder on a bunker chunk on Saturday. Fluke and porgies are still the mainstay of the rental fleet, however, there are a lot of small fish for both species.

On the **Eveready** out of **Northport**, Capt. Artie reports anglers scoring well with bluefish despite the high winds this week. The boat has been jigging off Ashroken, the dumping grounds, northeast of the Lilco platform and off Smithtown Bay. Fare are taking 10 to 15 fish apiece in the 2 to 6 pound class.

Over at **Caraftis Fishing Station** in **Port Jefferson,** P.J. reports all the blues an angler could want. Crane's Neck, Mt. Misery Point and Port Jeff Harbor have all given up fish to 16 pounds. On the bottom, porgies are off the same points as the blues and inside the harbor. Most are mediums and they are taking sandworms.

Capt. John Alberda of **Sound Charters** based in **Huntington** said that bluefishing remains excellent with most of the fish being taken on jigs and some on trolled Perriewinkles. On Tuesday's trip, Elliot Paulter accounted for 45 blues averaging 12 pounds. Fishing was done just outside the Lilco plant and along Ashroken. On Wednesday, Bill Herr, his wife Giselle, daughter Cindy and her friend Susan Kocher of Texas combined to put away 70 blues up to 14 pounds. Thursday saw Roger Walmsley and his friend Terry account for 65 blues to 15 pounds. John asked that we remind readers that he is currently booking special weekday afternoon trips. Some fall dates are still available but weekends are going fast.

The **Port Jeff** charter boat **Morning Star** has been doing a fine job on blues. On Tuesday the Casola party loaded up with 5-8 pounders on diamond jigs. They rounded out the trip with porgies, school bass and fluke. On Thursday, Wayne Speare and friends were crying uncle by 10AM after their jigging bout with 5-8 pound

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . –0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	10:20	10:25	11:05	11:20	10:55	10:55	11:50	—	1:10	1:25	1:20	1:40	10:20	10:35	8/27
FRI.	10:55	11:05	11:45	11:55	11:25	11:30	12:05	12:30	1:50	2:05	1:55	2:15	11:00	11:15	8/28
SAT.	11:40	11:45	—	12:25	—	12:05	12:45	1:10	2:30	2:50	2:35	2:55	11:40	11:55	8/29
SUN.	—	12:25	12:40	1:15	12:10	12:50	1:30	1:55	3:15	3:35	3:20	3:40	—	12:30	8/30
MON.	12:35	1:20	1:30	2:05	1:00	1:40	2:25	2:50	4:05	4:28	4:10	4:35	12:50	1:25	8/31
TUES.	1:30	2:20	2:25	3:05	2:00	2:40	3:30	3:55	5:00	5:25	5:10	5:40	1:50	2:30	9/1
WED.	2:45	3:30	3:30	4:15	3:10	3:55	4:40	5:00	6:10	6:34	6:20	6:45	3:00	3:40	9/2
THURS.	4:00	4:40	4:45	5:25	4:35	5:15	5:50	6:10	7:30	7:50	7:30	8:00	4:10	4:40	9/3

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehobeth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	–0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point, north side	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	–0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rochelle	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	–1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 8/27	6:20	7:42
FRI. 8/28	6:21	7:41
SAT. 8/29	6:22	7:40
SUN. 8/30	6:23	7:39
MON. 8/31	6:24	7:37
TUE. 9/1	6:25	7:35
WED. 9/2	6:26	7:33

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 8/27	9:15AM	9:00PM
FRI. 8/28	10:20AM	9:20PM
SAT. 8/29	11:25AM	9:45PM
SUN. 8/30	12:35PM	10:15PM
MON. 8/31	1:50PM	10:55PM
TUE. 9/1	3:05PM	11:45PM
WED. 9/2	4:10PM	—

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
9/23	9/1	9/7	9/14

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	7:40	**1:30**	8:05	**1:50**
Fri.	8:25	**2:15**	8:50	**2:35**
Sat.	9:10	**3:00**	9:40	**3:25**
Sun.	10:00	**3:50**	10:30	**4:15**
Mon.	11:00	**4:50**	11:30	**5:15**
Tues.	11:55	**5:50**	—	**6:20**
Wed.	12:35	**6:45**	12:55	**7:15**
Thurs.	1:30	**7:40**	1:50	**8:15**

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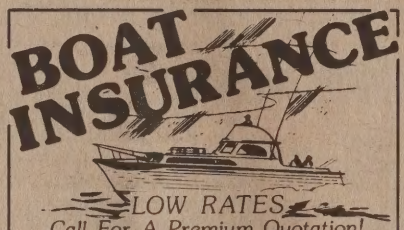

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choppers. They relaxed by putting away a mess of porgies. On Saturday, the Womack party put together an excellent catch of blues and porgies.

NORTH FORK

Warren's in **Aquebogue** reports fishing for porgies and blackfish is a little on the slow side but fluke are hitting well, too bad there are so many shorts. Snappers are loaded at the inlets and bays.

From **Captain Marty's** in **New Suffolk** we learned that porgy and weakfishing is heating up in the South Race at buoys 26 to 28. Small to medium sized porgies and 1½ to 2 pound weaks are making up the catches. Most days see about 30 porgies a boat.

Over at **A.P. White's** in **Greenport,** Ruth informs us that anglers are still collecting all the blues they want in the Rip, Race and Gut. Eight ounce diamond jigs with tube tails are doing the trick. Umbrella rigs are working too. Joe DeSanti has been scoring well with striped bass, he had two keepers and a load of shorts near East Marion this week. All were taken on sandworms.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Cool nights and chill mornings are sure to get the blood pumping among the surf crowd. It appears that action along the beaches has shown signs of coming on in recent days and some casters are looking for an early start, similar to last season when mullet were moving out of the inlets as early as the third week of August.

Out in **Montauk**, a shot of 3-5 pound blues gave the surf scene here a much needed boost. According to Johnny Kronuch at **Johnny's Tackle Shop**, the fishing got started on Wednesday and was still good up through Sunday afternoon and evening. The fish had been in and out between North Bar and the Lighthouse and are being taken on popping plugs. Blue and white Atoms seem to be particularly productive on a couple of occasions. The after dark scene has been relatively quiet according to Johnny with just a couple of small bass coming out of Ditch Plains.

Some big blues taken on bait at Shinnecock this week according to Paul Graniello at **J&J Tackle** in **Patchogue**. Paul told of John Rossi and Mickey Russo who counted 9 blues from 10 to 13 pounds taken on fresh bunker Friday night. A few big blues

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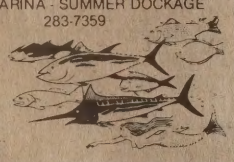

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being plugged on poppers in the Stony Brook area. Ozzie Van Helmond took several big choppers here during the week. Great South Bay Anglers Club member Lou Pagnoni connected with a 17 pound striper on a 7 inch Bomber. It was taken late in the week in the Fire Island area.

According to Jim Romano at **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** in **East Islip**, Pat Laskowski found the combination of a live eel and a flooding tide inside Fire Island Inlet just right to fool a 20 pound striper on Wednesday night.

Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait and Tackle** had 2 respectable fish checked into his shop on the weekend. Richie Koester weighed in a 12 pound weakfish early Sunday morning. It was taken in Fire Island Inlet. On Saturday, Robert Mays checked in with a 22.3 pound striper taken at Tobay. It was weighed at the Jones Beach station.

From **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** Tom Healy relayed word of another weak taken by Richie Koester. The 9 pounder was taken during the week on a plug in Fire Island Inlet. Tom added that some school bass with an occasional keeper are being taken on sandworms at Democrat Point. A few big blues continue to be picked from the Cedar Bar on bunker chunks.

Jimmy Schaefer at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** in **Lindenhurst** relayed word of some school bass action at Robert Moses on both the ocean side an the inlet side. George Schneider had 3 there during the week. Mike Shahananian used Crocodile spoons and Red Gill droppers to take 6 school bass there. Across the way, an occasional weakfish being picked near the Sore Thumb and a slow pick of big blues on the Cedar Bar for baitfishermen.

Moving up to the North Shore, John Cacciolla at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported big blues working local beaches this past week. 'Sleepy' O'Rourke used large popping plugs to take 31 blues near Matinnecock on Saturday.

Big bluefish in the 10 to 15 pound class continue to roam Huntington and Northport Harbors according to George Valentine at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle**. The fish have been coming within range of casters working the harbor shores and Huntington Town Dock. Big plugs along with being at the right place at the right time

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is the key to this fishing.

Over at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Stan Hentschel called the bluefish action much improved with any number of big fish to 14 pounds now being taken on bunker chunks at Hagerman Landing, Broadway, Shoreham and Mt. Sinai Harbor. Best fishing for the big blues is between sunset and sunrise. Smaller blues from 2-4 pounds continue to provide plenty of sport along local beaches. They are being taken on poppers with the best fishing in the early AM or during the evening hours. This week also saw a resurgence in bass activity with lots of schoolies taken on Redfins along the Smithtown Bay shore.

Out on the North Fork, a report from **Warren's Tackle** in **Aquebogue** reveals lots of blues being taken on bunker chunks along the shore between Mattituck Inlet and Wading River.

Freshwater REPORT
with Tom Schlichter

Freshwater fishing continues to rebound from the "dog days" of summer. Before the winds began to gust over the weekend, action with bass and pickerel was definitely on the upswing. A few more cool nights and calmer winds should prompt continued improvement as the fish begin to sense the approach of fall. Fishing for all species is still best in the early morning, late evening or after dark, but some anglers are beginning to also pick a few daytime feeders.

At **Beckmann's Bait and Tackle** in **Lynbrook,** Bill told us of a 6.25 pound largemouth taken on a spinnerbait by Pat Meman of Franklin Square. Pat was fishing at Harriman State Park in Westchester County when the 23" beauty hammered his lure. Back on the Island, Bill reports the usual action with small bass at Grant Park. To the est, Howard Schoen worked the Connetquot River on the weekend, scoring with four rainbows and six brook trout to 16 inches. Black ant drys were the hot pattern.

From Bobby Turturello at **Causeway Bait and Tackle** in **Wantagh,** we hear of improved bass fishing on the Mill Pond. MOst of the bass are feeding on live killies dunked after dark but natural colored plastic worms are accounting for some fish during daylight hours. Over on the Twin Lakes, pickerel are beginning to respond to cooler temperatures and anglers working live killies have begun to pick up a few early and late in the day.

According to Fred Laager of **Edelman's Sportsmans Center** in **Centereach,** the husband and wife team of

Mary and Mark Turner had a successful day of bass and pickerel fishing on Saturday. The couple used green plastic frogs and black willowleaf spinners to nail four bass to 2.75 pounds and 5 pickerel to 19 inches. For anglers thinking of fly fishing for trout upstate, Fred suggested fishing "tricos" (sizes 22 or 24) in the morning and light Cahills or Henryville specials (size 16 to 18) in the evening. These patterns worked for Fred while he fished the Willowemock and Beaverkill Rivers last week. Most of the fish taken on these rivers were in the 9 to 14 inch range and the fish were very selective.

A call to **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in **Babylon** clued us in on some bass action in Argyle Lake. According to Fred, fishing buddies Danny Mongo and Tony Daidone connected with several fish to 1.5 pounds at this location while fishing over the weekend.

Fred Kruse of **Pine Grove Outfitters** in **Ronkonkoma** gave a call on Sunday to report a hefty 6¾ pound largemouth taken at Blydenburg Lake by Rohan Bhansali of Hauppauge. Rohan used a buzzbait to nail this 21" lunker. On Lake Ronkonkoma, the song remains the same: a few sharpies taking 3 to 4 pound bass and good panfishing from the bank. No carp reported this week.

At **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale,** Dave Canale termed this a slow week on the freshwater side. There have been a few small trout caught at Bubbles Falls, but nothing worth rising early for. Over in Cutting's Pond, a few bass to 1.5 pounds have been reported, but again, no sustained action.

A busy Paul Graniello of **J&J Bait and Tackle** in **Patchogue** spoke of good bass fishing on local lakes with plenty of surface action but few large fish. West lake has been particularly hot. A few trout are beginning to show in the tidal creeks and the brackish waters of the Carman's River.

From Mrs. Devlin at the **Fisherman's Deli** in **Riverhead** we learned that Peconic River bass and pickerel have been agreeable, especially in the afternoon. However, few anglers have been out to take advantage of the improved action. On Friday, Ray Graizio of Garden City, collected six pickerel to 18 inches, all were taken on live killies. Saturday was a wash-out.

Upstate, trout fishing has been a little picky, but is still much improved over recent weeks according to Ken Josephson of Crazy Chief Ski and Sport on Hunter Mountain. The water levels on most streams are still pretty low and anglers have to work the pools to find a few feeding trout. Terrestrials have been working pretty well of late.

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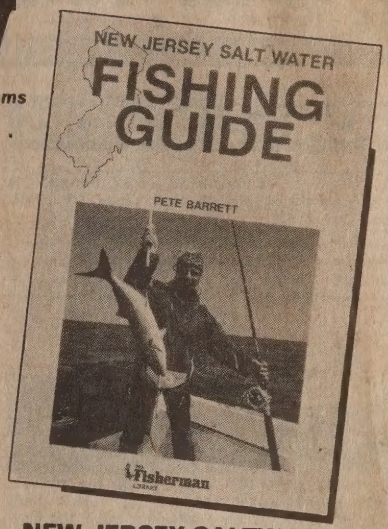

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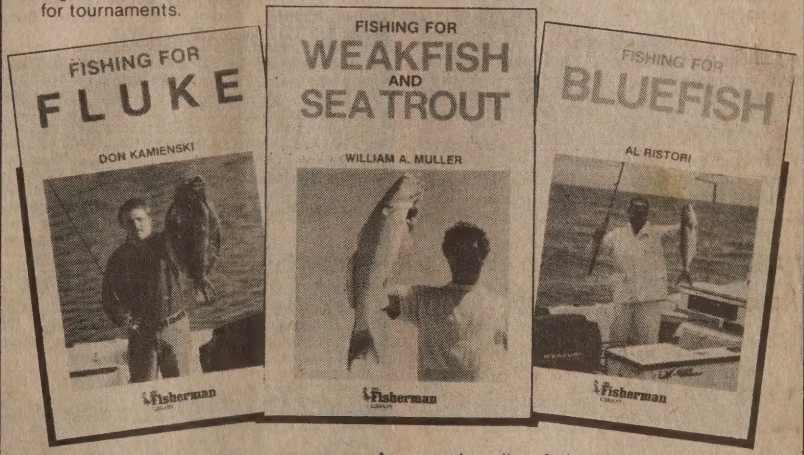

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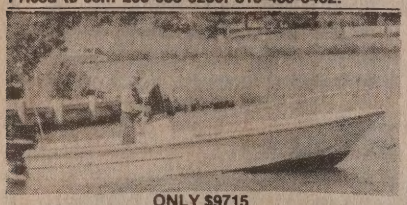

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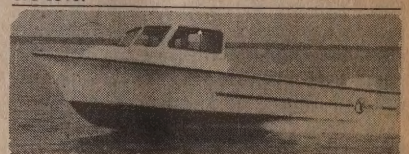

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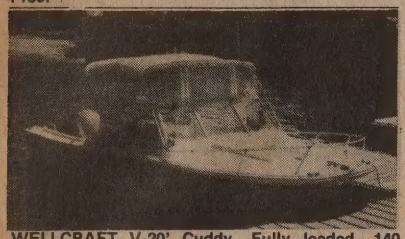

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1985 2110 Trophy Bayliner, Cuddy, Porta John. Cushions; 125 hp, CB, depth finder. Wired for Humminbird fish finder. Dual batt. Power tilt-trim tabs. Trolling motor set-up. Shoreline trailer, power winch. $14,500. Eves: 736-2962.

FORMULA 23' 1972 twin 165 hp Merc I/O. New canvas, DF, VHF. Mint. Low hrs. $9800. 516-587-4029/744-1707.

20' SHAMROCK Cuddy I/B 1979. Engine rebuilt in '83. Loran, VHF, Lowrance DF, trim tabs, swim platform. Outriggers. EZ Loader galv. tandem trailer. $11,500. Days: 914-738-1900. Eves: 914-725-5177.

BLACK FIN 29 1984 COMBI
Custom tower, sunshade & controls. T/454 Crusaders, 330 gal. fuel cap. Top electronics inc. Furuno radar, Furuno LC-90 Loran, Icom VHF, Raytheon JFV-90 video DF, 600 watt. Double spreader outriggers. Compl. rigged for big game fishing. Custom stand-up cabin. Low hrs. Mint. At Montauk. Serious calls only. Must sell. $80,000. 718-204-4777.

30' Quiet running Work Boat, non-roller. Rebuilt FWC engine-val. $3000; 6 gal./hr. Gill nets, fyke, elec. pot hauler. Reasonable. 516-483-9598.

TOPAZ 29 1983 T/Volvo diesel. Hard-top, full electronics. Chair. Loaded; many extras. Mint cond. Original owner. 516-681-2517.

25' CHRIS Lancer, flybridge, twin station. New 350 GM & Volvo 280. True Deep V, fast & dry. Full electronics. Outriggers. Mint. Many extras. Excl. offshore/inshore. Mom will love this boat too. Only $10,200. 925-9446.

21' ROBALO, 1981, cuddy cabin, 200 hp Mercury. Loran, VHF, depthfinder. Full canvas & curtains. Mooring cover. $7500. Days: 516-595-3173.

WANTED: 21'-30' boat w/blown motor. Fiberglass only. 718-767-9542.

60' CUSTOM BUILT Party Boat, 49 passengers, 100 miles. Can increase. 2 8V71s. Planking 1.5" Juniper. Excl. cond. Built 1978. New boat coming in June. Reduced for quick sale. $125,000. CAPT. JOHN, 15 First St., Waterford, Ct 06385; 203-443-7259.

1980 BLACK FIN 25' Fisherman 350 hp Crusader. Full encl. & electronics. Compl. fish rigged. $23,500. 203-966-9330.

16' MIRROCRAFT, 40 hp Evinrude, Galv. trailer. Rigged to fish. Ask: $2500. After 5PM: 516-273-0485.

31 BERTRAM 68, repowered FWC 427s. Out & down riggers, fight chair, 2 insulated fish boxes. 325 gal. fuel cap. Electronics pkg. incl. colorscope. Canyon ready & tournament tested. Disability prevents use. Make me an offer I can't refuse. 516-589-7005.

Sea Nymph

1987 Fishing Boats. Evinrude outboards. KELLY'S OUTBOARD WORLD, 1531 Lakeland Ave., Bohemia, 516-567-3417.

SEA RAY 30' 1977 Sportfisherman. Flybridge, Loran, VHF, DF, Flo Scan. 50 hrs. on rebuilt 260 hp Mercs. 240 gal. fuel. Ask: $32K. 516-661-7607.

1974 19' MAKO, 1975 115 hp Johnson & galv. trailer. $4000 or best offer. 516-579-8811.

12' MIRROCRAFT 1984, 8 hp Mariner; 15 hrs. $750. Eves: 516-766-3954.

25' 1979 TOLLYCRAFT-10. New gas tanks, new carburetor. Excl. cond. Ready to go. $18,500 negotiable. 516-298-8845.

23' PROLINE 1983, W/A Cabin, 170 hp Mercruiser FWC. Excl. cond. $9500. AMITY HARBOR MARINE, 516-842-1280.

22' SISU Bass Boat model, 150 hp Yamaha. Still under warranty. Shoreline Galv. tandem trailer, VHF, Loran, 6" chart recorder, head, canvas top & side curtains. All new in 1986. Mint cond. $21,000. 914-235-9167.

19' MFG Cuddy, 135 hp Evinrude. Full canvas. '86 Galv. trailer. Many extras. $5200. 516-746-0259.

27' SPORTCRAFT Fisherman 1985. 260 hp I/B, 29 MPH cruise. All electronics, fight chair w/foot rest, gin pole, washdown. 300 mile range. $23,000. 516-661-9363.

1976 PACEMAKER 26' Wide beam center console cuddy, 1987 #454 Mercruiser FWC I/B. Fast, fully encl. Fully fishing equip. Loaded electronics. Needs one fuel tank. $15,500. Wknd, Eves: 516-536-6429. Days: 212-966-0255.

Continued On Next Page →

1986 25' GRADY WHITE Sailfish, twin 200 hp Yamahas, radar, fight chair, color video, Loran, VHF, etc. Canyon ready. $47,900. Al: 215-946-3150/860-1646.

33' BALTZER Sedan 1952. Classic Cruiser. Twin Chryslers. Professionally maintained. Clean. $9600. 516-691-7613.

22' HIGHLINER I/O 350 hp Mercruiser. Tuna tower, full encl. Loaded; very seaworthy offshore boat. 80 gal. fuel tanks. Shoreline tandem galv. trailer. Must sell. Best offer. 516-621-2255.

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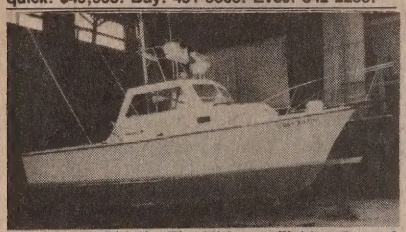

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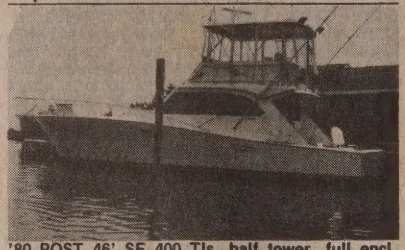
17' BOSTON WHALER Montauk, 85 hp Johnson, 6 hp Johnson Aux. Trailer. $3500. 212-828-4036.



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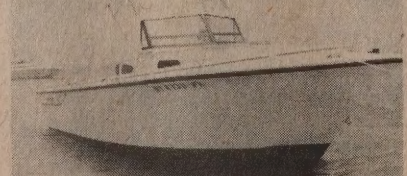
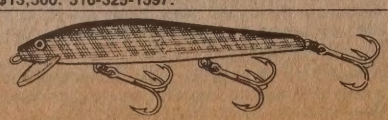


PROLINE 21' 1985 Walkaround Cuddy, 470 Merc I/O FWC. Color fish finder, VHF. Rod holders, swim platform. Cockpit lights, 70 gal. fuel. CG Pkg. 70 hrs on boat & motor. Excl. Will Demo. $13,500. 516-325-1597.



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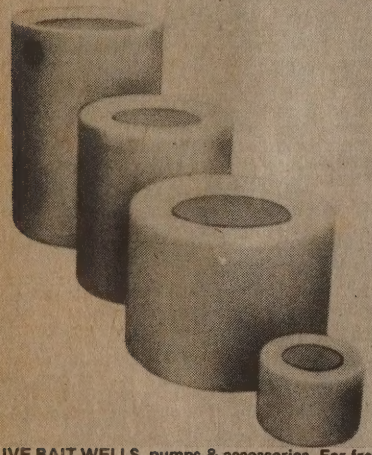

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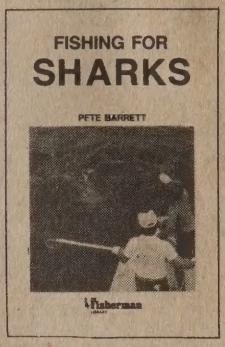

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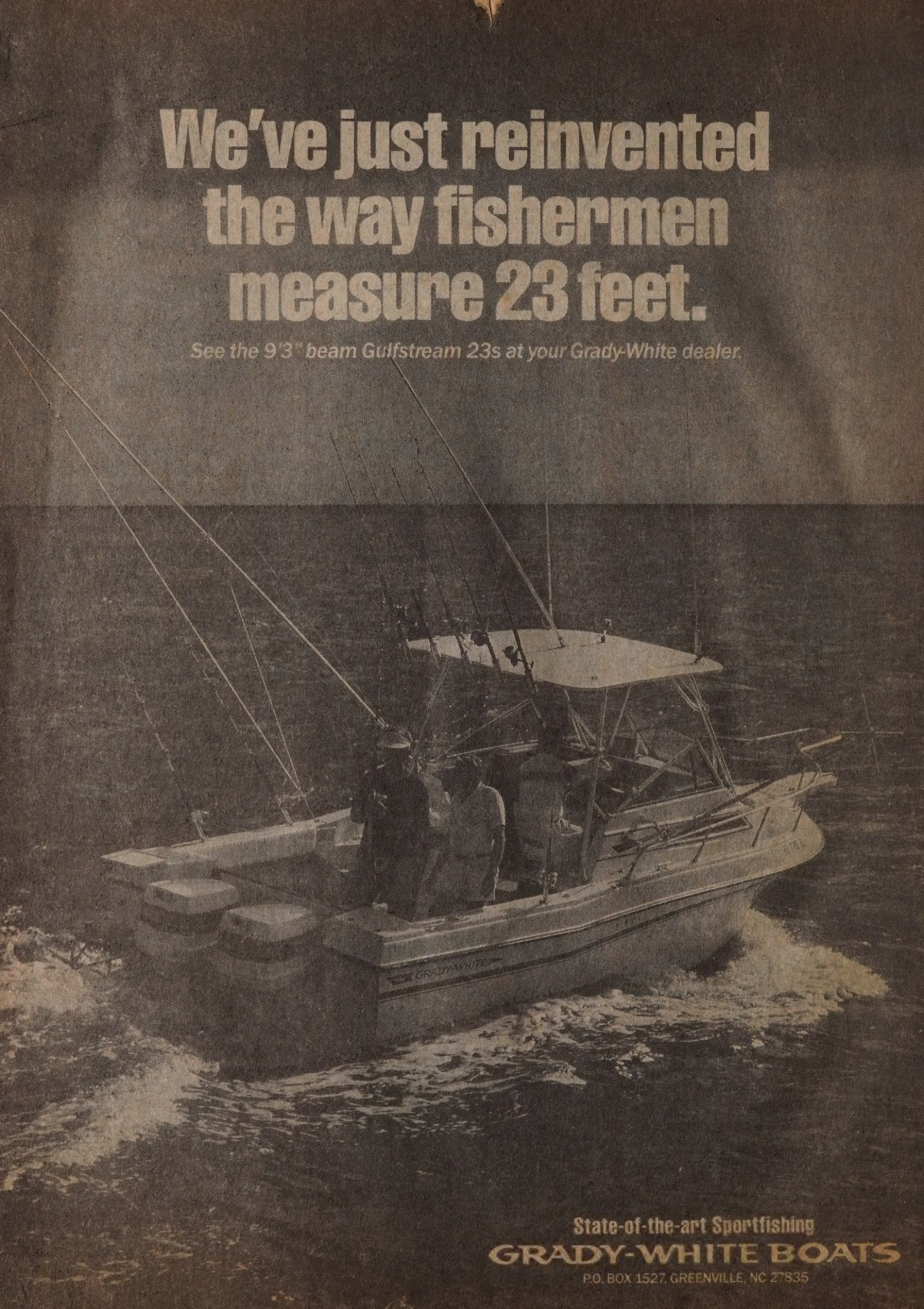

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